

THE
EXERCISE OF ARMS
IN THE
CONTINENTAL INFANTRY

*Being a Study
of the
Manual of the Firelock
as set forth by
Major-General von Steuben
to which is added
the Motions for the Manual of the
Non-Commissioned Officer,
the Esponton and the Sword
as prescribed by contemporary Authorities
and explained in the Minutiae
through the utilization of a live Model
displayed in 1,000 photographic
and artistic Plates*

by
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MUSEUM RESTORATION SERVICE

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Chapter V

PERFORMANCE OF THE MANUAL EXERCISE

The Commands

Use of the Voice — The delivery of commands is an essential factor in the success that a body of troops can achieve in performing the manual of arms. Pickering expresses his opinions of the techniques to be used with frankness and time-tested advice in his "Directions about teaching the exercise:"

II. 'Tis of importance that the words of command be given in a proper manner. I have sometimes heard them given in such a confused, inarticulate, mere animal sound, that the men might as well perform the exercise by the braying of an ass; and this proceeded from a foolish opinion that it was more soldier-like. The design of the language is to convey our ideas: but is of no use unless words are pronounced distinctly and articulately. The words of command therefore should be given in this manner; that the men may understand them, and not mistake one for another.

III. 'Tis an unhappiness that notwithstanding almost all men, even the most illiterate, do in their common conversation exhibit a just elocution; yet whenever they read, or speak any thing out of their usual way, much the greater part do it in a manner most formal, stiff and unnatural. Little more is required than to give the words of command with the natural, easy, unaffected utterance, with which they give any short orders or directions about their common affairs.

1st. Care should be taken not to overstrain the voice which will render it soon hoarse; not to get above its pitch, which will give it a disagreeable tone.

2d. To proportion the strength of the voice to the occasion. Some speak with a full and loud a voice to a company, or small party, as if they were addressing a whole regiment.

3d. To pronounce every word clearly and distinctly. [1]

Prior to the introduction of the *Regulations* the preparatory and execution words in a command for the manual exercise were not, according to Pickering, distinguished by an interval of time:

Some, without any regard to propriety, make a pause between the first and last part of every word of command, even if it consists of two words only; but in most cases in the manual exercise no other pause is to be made than the slight one which naturally follows the pronouncing an emphatical word. [2]

An apparent innovation of von Steuben's *Regulations* was the introduction of a distinct separation, or pause, between the preparatory and execution words

of command for most of the movements in the instructions for the facings, steps, manual exercise, and the firings. In this work the commands are divided into preparatory and execution words separated by a dash. The preparatory words appear in lower case and the command of execution in capitals followed by an exclamation mark, e.g.:

"Handle—CARTRIDGE!"

Pronunciation — The only guides to the probable pronunciation of the words of command for the manual exercise of the *Regulations* are those described by Pickering [3] and implied in von Steuben's *Instructions of 1778*. [4] Pickering provides the most specific instructions for the pronunciation:

I tho't it might be of advantage; in order to facilitate the acquiring of proper pronunciation, to mark the *accented syllables*, as well as the *emphatical words*, in the words of command in the manual exercise; . . . those syllables *only*, and emphatic words of one syllable, are printed in Italics.

As *emphasis* is the raising of the voice upon a certain word, or words, so *accent* is the elevation of the voice upon a certain syllable in a word; which syllable must be louder, or better heard than the rest: as in the word shoulder, the voice must be raised on the syllable (shoul) which takes the accent; that is, it must be pronounced louder than the syllable (der). [5]

This same scheme of notation has been used in this work as a guide to pronunciation. A word of command would appear, for example, as follows:

"Shoulder—FIRELOCK!"

In this case "shoul" and "FIRE" would be accented. Where a command contains one-syllable words, the entire word would be emphasized:

"Fix—BAYONET!"

"Fix" would receive the emphasis and "BA" the accent in this command.

Interval Between Commands — There should be adequate time allowed between the end of one command and the beginning of another:

that the men may have time to *think*, and keep their minds calm and sedate: if they are greatly hurried, they will be confused, and commit blunders. [6]

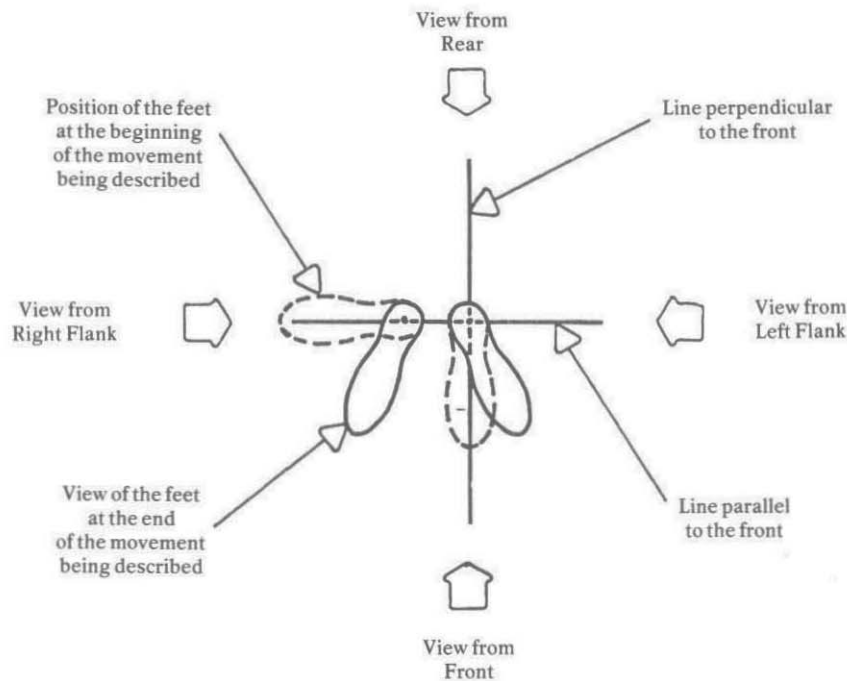


Fig. 5-1 Foot diagram as observed from above with the intersection of the lines indicating the center of the left heel.

Use of the Plural — It should be noted that the command of execution, “*Firelock*” is given in the singular when it is used in the manual exercise of the *Regulations*, but it is used in the plural, “*Firelocks*,” on all other occasions. This may have been written to make the commands of the manual exercise suitable for the instruction of an individual soldier rather than for a body of troops. [7]

The Movements

Cadence — The *Regulations* prescribe that the soldier “is to be very exact in counting a second of time between each motion” [8] when performing the manual exercise. Pickering offers the common device of measuring the second of time:

In performing the manual exercise, the men should wait about a second of time (but not more) between the motions; or whilst they may count one, two, distinctly. [9]

Proficiency — The proficiency to be achieved in the performance of the manual of arms is summarized by Pickering:

the men should be taught to perform every motion the shortest way, keeping their pieces always near their bodies, without making wide motions: and by degrees, especially after they become tolerable proficient, they ought to aim at doing every thing with great life, as though the firelocks were moved by a smart spring: this will animate, and fix their attention. At the end of every motion they should stand firm and steady, without stirring the least. [10]

To this he added the final general observation for teaching the manual exercise:

That the exercise of the firelock cannot be learned or performed with ease and gracefulness unless a man holds

his piece slightly, so that it may have some play in his hands. Learners are extremely apt to gripe their pieces so hard as to prevent their being brought to many necessary positions without great constraint. This leads them to think the exercise difficult to learn, and hard to perform: whereas the fault often lies in their grasping the firelock with all their strength; as if that were necessary to support it, or they feared some one would rob them of it: whereas, if they hold the piece loosely in their hands, so that it may, when necessary, turn and slip with freedom, it will naturally come to its proper position, and their hands and arms be at ease. [11]

Division of Motion — The motions of the commands in this work have been termed “counts.” Each count is to be completed in most cases as quickly as possible requiring approximately one second to change the musket from one position to another. A pause of one second is allowed between the completion of one count and the commencement of the next. Some of the counts, or motions, consist of only one movement of a hand or arm, while others require compound movements of one or both hands to complete the motion. Whenever there are such multiple movements, the count has been subdivided for clarity into “parts.” Each part has been given a title that summarizes the movement. Unless noted otherwise, all parts are to be completed as quickly as possible within the time allocated for a count and usually within one second of time.

Foot Movements

Importance — The correct positioning and movement of the feet are essential for the proper performance of the manual exercise and the firings

with the flintlock musket in the two-rank formation. The spacing, location, and alignment of the feet are specified in detail to place the soldier in the exact positions necessary to maximize his efficiency and minimize the hazards he may suffer from, or inflict upon, his own rank and file. All movements of the feet in the Regulations preserve the position of the left heel to assure that the individual soldier will maintain his position in ranks.

Diagrams — To emphasize the foot movements and distinguish clearly the details of their execution, a diagram of the position of the feet is included with the front view of every position of the manual. Figure 5-1 is a typical diagram showing a vertical and horizontal line intersecting at the center of the heel of the left foot. All foot diagrams are oriented so the foot symbols are indicated as they would be represented as if the observer were looking down on the performer. The “front” of the diagram is always toward the bottom of the page. The solid-line foot symbols represent the position of the feet of the model in the photograph. The broken-line foot symbols indicate the position of the feet in the previous movement.

Points of View

In this work the views of the movements of the manuals of arms have been selected to display the salient features of each position. Two views are used in most instances, the first view is always made from the front and the second view from the right or left “flank” with respect to the front. The single views representing the movements for the salute of the esoponton while marching are an exception and the “front” is on the right of the page.

Notes to Chapter 5

PERFORMANCE OF THE MANUAL EXERCISE

1. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, pp. 4-5.
2. *Ibid.*, Part I, p. 6.
3. *Ibid.*, Part I, pp. 32-33.
4. *Orderly Book No. 17*, 1778, “Baron Steubens Instructions,” p. 111.
5. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, *loc. cit.*
6. *Ibid.*, Part I, p. 6.
7. John Blackwell, *A Compendium of Military Discipline*. London: Printed for the Author; and to be Sold at his *House in Well-Court in Queen-Street*, near *Cheapside*, 1726. The end foldout table of the “Words of Command of the Manual Exercise, etc.” notes “That those words of Command are Printed in the Singular Number, as given to a Singular Person; but are to be turned into the Plural Number when given to a Body of Men.”
8. *Regulations*, 1779, Ch. V, p. 15.
9. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 9.
10. *Ibid.*
11. *Ibid.*, Part I, pp. 37-38.

Chapter VI

UNIFORMS, ARMS, AND ACCOUTREMENTS

In any description of the performance of a manual operation it is helpful to have a clear understanding of the nomenclature and functions of the components of the physical objects involved. The manual exercises for the weapons of the private soldier and the non-commissioned and commissioned officers are related to the proper wearing of the uniform, the order in which the accoutrements are worn, and the functions of the weapons. A description is therefore provided in contemporary terms of the uniform of a typical infantry private soldier, a non-commissioned officer, and a platoon officer, their accoutrements, and weapons. [1] The *Regulations* provide only a cryptic description of the arms and accoutrements of the infantry:

“The arms and accoutrements of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, should be uniform throughout.

The officers who serve on horseback, are to be armed with swords, the platoon officers with swords and esponsions, the non-commissioned officers with swords, firelocks, and bayonets, and the soldiers with firelocks and bayonets.” [2]

Private Soldier

A typical private soldier of the American Infantry of the Revolution is shown in Figure 6. The parts of the uniform and accoutrements are:

Uniform:

1. Shirt
2. Stock
3. Overalls
4. Shoes
5. Garters
6. Waistcoat
7. Regimental coat
8. Hat and cockade

Accoutrements:

1. Bayonet scabbard and shoulder belt
2. Cartridge Box and Shoulder Belt with vent picker and brush attached by their chains

Arms:

1. Firelock and sling
2. Bayonet

Wearing the Private's Uniform and Accoutrements

The shirt collar is turned down evenly over the stock which is tied or buckled in the rear. The waistcoat is buttoned to the neck. The regimental coat is worn with the facings buttoned down in the open position with the skirts hooked up. The coat chest hooks are fastened to close the coat from the center of the chest to the cape. The wearing of garters with overalls is a matter of conjecture. They were probably used when knee-length gaiters were worn over breeches. The bayonet scabbard belt is put on first over the right shoulder and under the shoulder strap. The bayonet is shown in the scabbard with the flat of the blade and the socket toward the body. Although there are no instructions in the *Regulations* to specify the position of the bayonet and none of the accompanying contemporary illustrations are clear enough to show the custom among American troops, there is evidence that they were worn with the socket turned toward [3] or away [4] from the body. The cartridge box belt is put on over the left shoulder with the cartridge box placed over the right hip. Cuthbertson's discussion of the placement of the cartridge box provides advice that is both practical and conducive to uniformity of appearance:

“The Pouches should be always buckled up short, that the upper part of them, may, in general, rise to the hip-button of the coat, and be thereby not only tighter, and more convenient for marching, but also readier for the Soldier to take out his Cartridges, without being obliged to bend his body to the right, which must be the case, were the Pouches fixt too low.” [5]

To ensure a greater exactness, he provides some additional instructions:

“they must also be worn so much back, that when the Soldier's right hand is in its proper position down his side, the

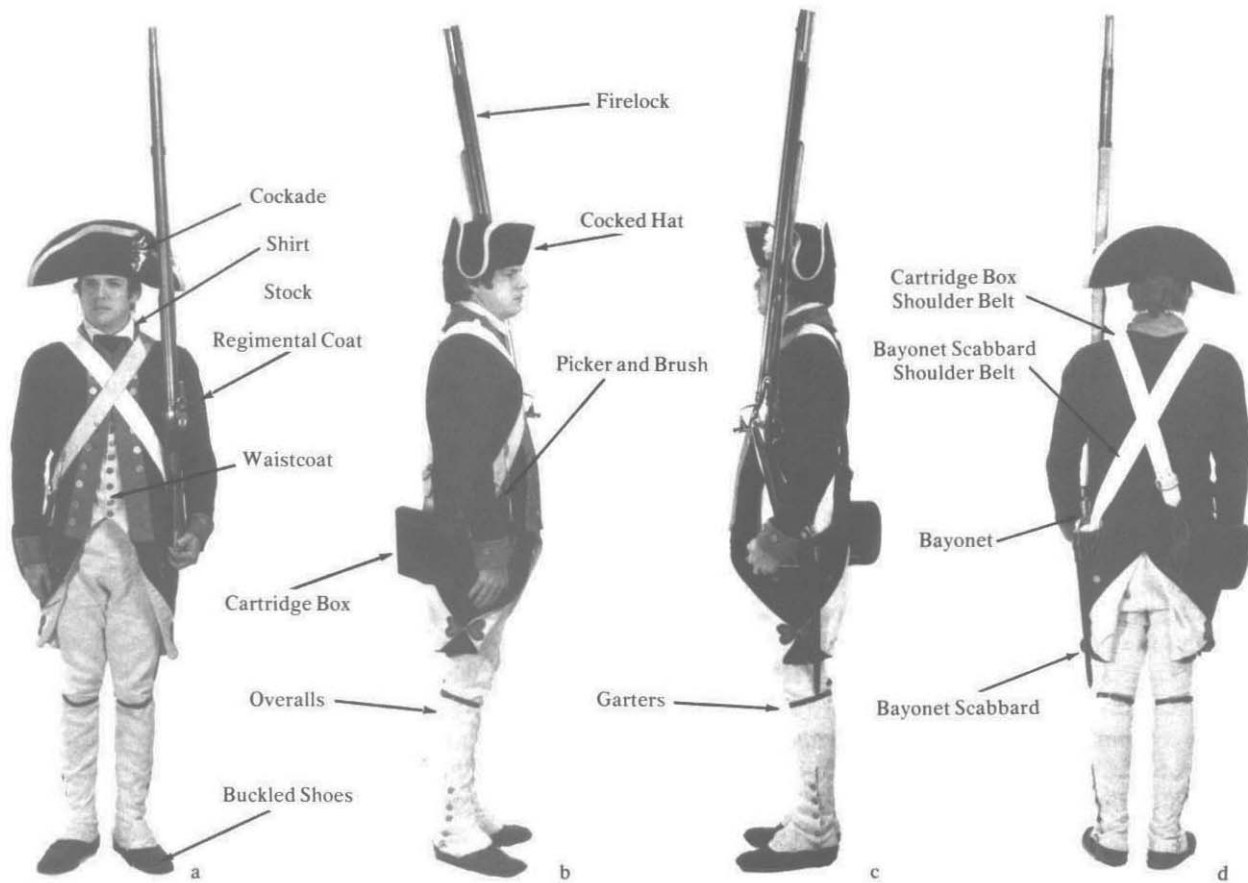


Fig. 6-1 Private, under arms, viewed from the (a) front, (b) right flank, (c) left flank, and (d) rear.

front corner of the Pouch may just touch the elbow, and by that means, be entirely out of the way, in the performance of the Exercise, at the same time, that it will hang sufficiently convenient for taking out his Cartridges, to load with expedition." [6]

For the bayonet, he recommends:

"... the upper part of the Carriage for receiving the Bayonet to rise just to the hip button of the coat; ... the Bayonet to be thrown so back, as to not interfere with the Firelock, when shouldered;" [7]

To prevent the cartridge box and bayonet from sliding forward in the motion of grounding the firelock, Cuthbertson recommends also that the inside of the front buckle of the cartridge box belt and the hook of the bayonet scabbard should be fastened with a leather loop to the hip buttons of the coat. This would appear to be a practical arrangement, but in the case of the bayonet, requires that it would have to be drawn with the left hand contrary to the manual of the *Regulations*.

Wearing of the Hat

The military mode of wearing the cocked hat is shown in Figure 6-2 and gave a distinctive style to the military uniform. This mode also fulfilled a very practical purpose related to the performance of the manual of arms in this period where the firelock was shouldered in nearly a vertical position. The manner

of wearing the hat by the military is borne out by contemporary art. [8] Cuthbertson's instructions are precise and clear:

"A Soldier should never be permitted to wear his Hat improperly, therefore at all time, as well off, as on a Parade, Officers and Non-commissioned-officers (without considering whether or not he belongs to their particular Company) ought to take notice; that it is pressed down on the right brow, and left one just uncovered, and the front cock pointing exactly over the outside corner of the left eye; in which, the mark directed to be fixed to the hats ... will greatly assist them; this position of the hat, besides adding a becoming smartness to the air of a Soldier, places the left cock of it in such a direction, as not to interfere with his firelock, in the motion of shouldering." [9]

The reference to the "mark" explains the location and its importance:

"... and that there may not be the smallest difference, in the method of wearing all the hats of the Regiment, a narrow bit of black tape, about a half and inch long, must be sewed close to the lining, upon that part of the hat which lies exactly over the nose, when put on in the proper manner; by which, it will be impossible for a Soldier, to have an excuse, for twisting the front cock more to the right of left, than should be; and it will also enable, even the most unexperienced Officer, by casting his eye to this mark, to be at once assured, whether the hats of his Company are worn agreeable to the orders of the Regiment." [10]

The chain of the picker and brush is run behind the cartridge box shoulder belt to keep them from



Fig. 6-2 Military mode of wearing the cocked hat with the front cock over the left brow and the crown resting on the right brow.

becoming “troublesome in raising the flaps of the Pouch, to take out a Cartridge.” [11]

Non-Commissioned Officer

The uniforms and accoutrements representing an American non-commissioned infantry officer of the Revolution are shown in Figure 6-3. The uniform was identical to that of a private soldier with the exception that rank was displayed on the shoulder. The number and color of the straps, or epaulettes, depended upon the regulations in force. Early regulations specified a strap on the right shoulder — green for a corporal and red for sergeants. Later regulations indicated infantry corporal’s rank by a white epaulette on the right shoulder and sergeant’s by white epaulettes on both shoulders. [12]

In addition to the firelock and bayonet the non-commissioned officers were “to be armed . . . with swords.” [13] A typical shoulder belt is shown in Figure 6-3 with a combination frog to accommodate the bayonet and sword. [14]

Officer

A representative infantry platoon officer is shown in Figure 6-4. The differences in dress from that of the enlisted men are the:

1. Black trimmed hat
2. Lace epaulette to denote rank, according to the 1780 Regulations [15]
3. Frill at the shirt center front opening

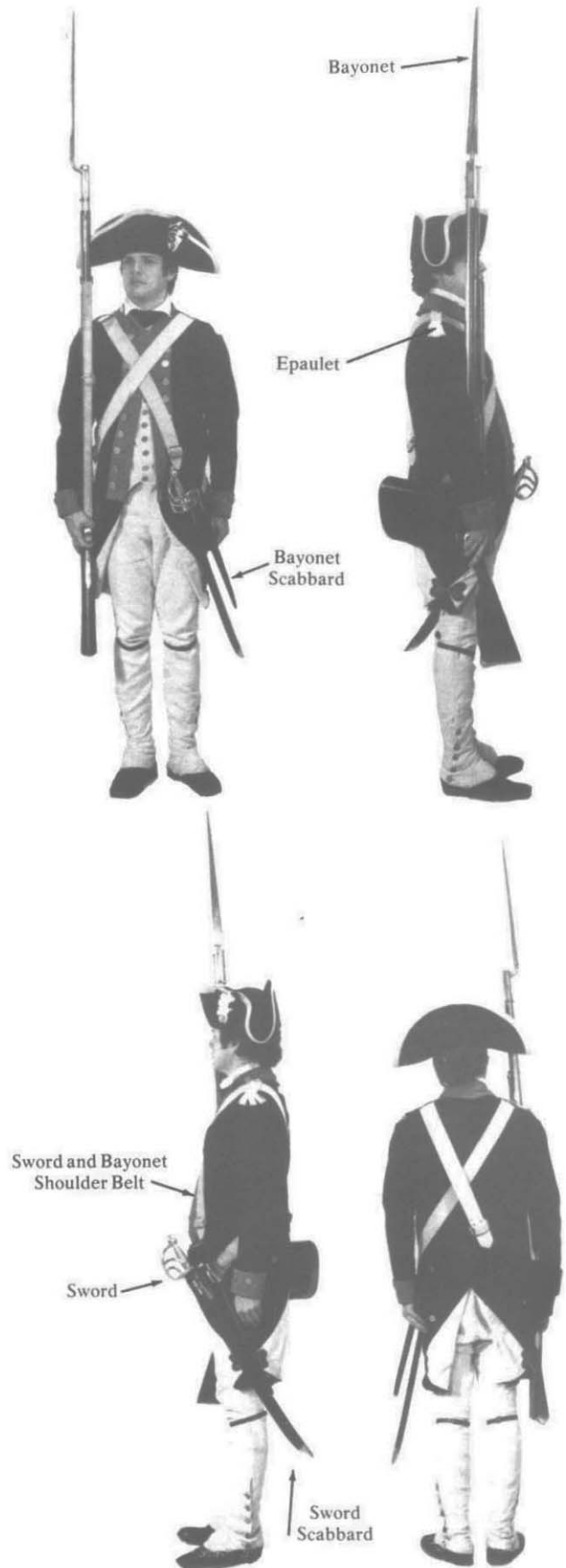


Fig. 6-3 Non-commissioned officer, under arms, viewed from the (a) front, (b) right flank, (c) left flank, and (d) rear.

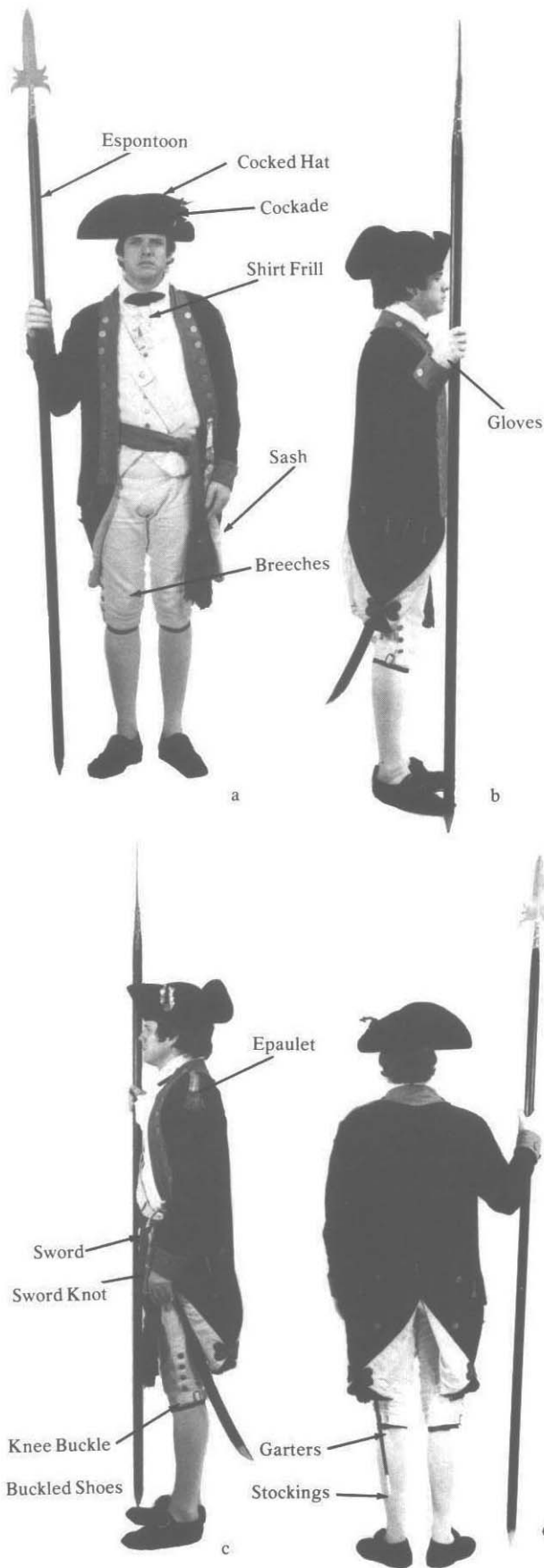


Fig. 6-4 Platoon officer, under arms, viewed from the (a) front, (b) right flank, (c) left flank, and (d) rear.

4. Waistcoat unbuttoned at top to show shirt frill
5. Sash tied before the left hip
6. Breeches
7. Gloves

The officer is shown equipped with a sword and espontoons in accordance with Washington's early instructions [16] and the specifications of the *Regulations* [17] for platoon officers. The sword is shown on the left side suspended from the right shoulder by the sword shoulder belt. This belt was worn variously over or under the regimental coat or the waistcoat. The officer is also shown wearing gloves as Cuthbertson in 1768 remarks:

"Officers and Sergeants should never appear under arms without gloves the colour of the accoutrements, as their hands must look extremely awkward and naked without them on such occasions." [18]

Much earlier King George II in 1743 set forth in his *Camp Duties and Regulations* that:

"All Officers to wear gloves when they have a fusil or espontoons in their hands." [19]

Firelock Nomenclature

The terms used in the manual exercise of the *Regulations* to describe the various locations on and components of the "firelock" leave little doubt that the flintlock musket being utilized by the soldier is the British Brown Bess. Such terms as "swell," "lower pipe," and "tail pipe" are unique to the Brown Bess. These terms are identical to those used in the British manual exercise of 1764, which, as has been shown, was the predominant basis for the manual exercise of the *Regulations*. The similarity of terms and the renditions of the pin-mounted barrel of the musket shown in the contemporary illustrations of this manual exercise indicates that the "firelock" of the *Regulations* was very probably the British Short Land Pattern Musket. Although the musket and bayonet illustrated in Figure 6-4 are modern reproductions, they are of sufficient authenticity to display the features of the Brown Bess. [20]

The nomenclature of the salient features of the musket and bayonet, as used in the instructions of Chapters VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, and XII of this work, has been compiled from terms used in contemporary writings in English military manuals, namely, those of Bland, Windham, Pickering, the *Manual Exercise of 1764*, the *Regulations of 1779*, Continental Army ordnance returns, and post-war writings. [21]

The component parts of and significant locations on the firelock are shown in Figure 6-5 and are listed below with alternate identifications in parenthesis:

Stock

Components

- a. Nose Brass (Cap)

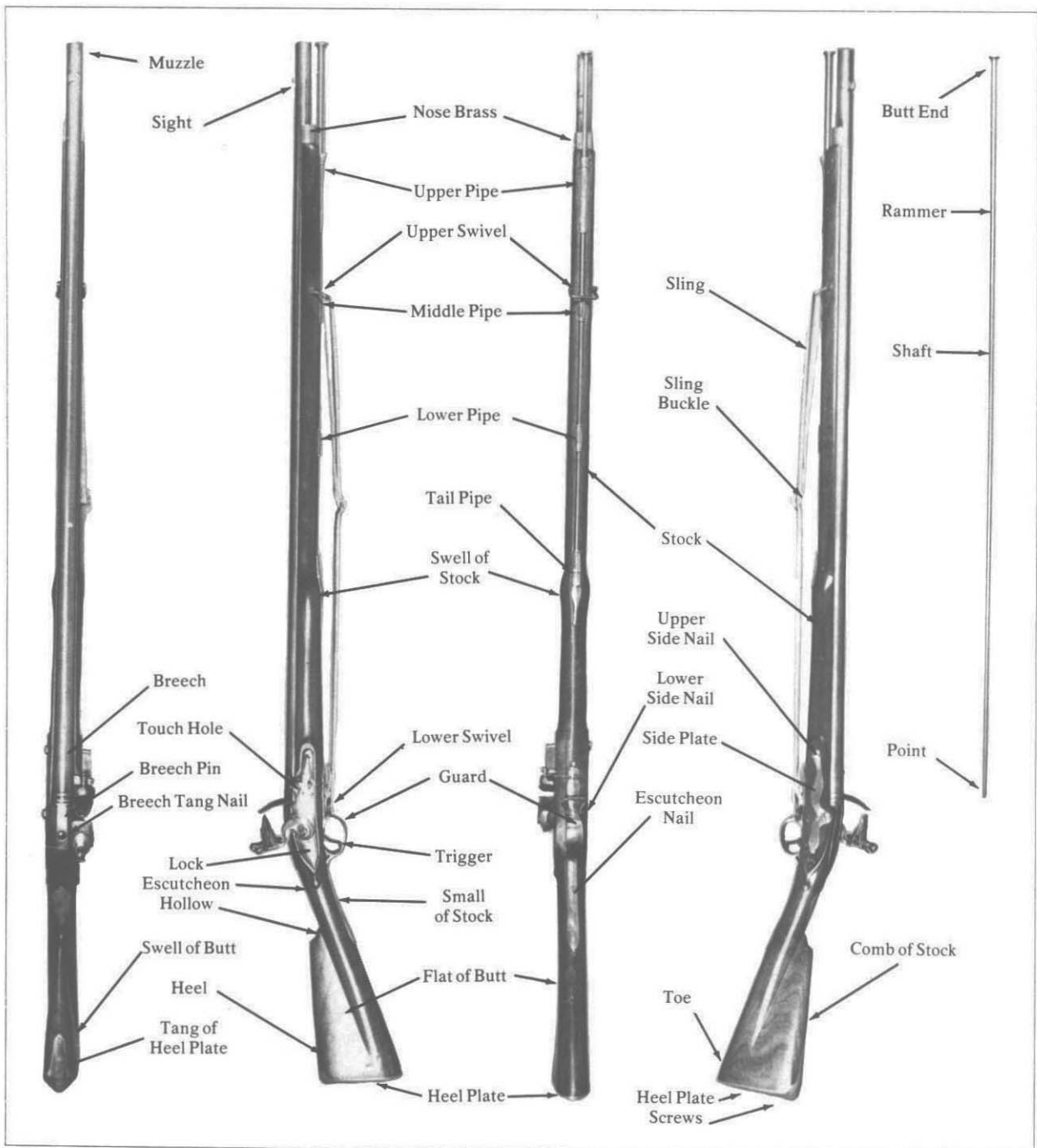


Fig. 6-5 The firelock (reproduction of the British Short Land Pattern Musket) showing the top, right, bottom, and the left side, and the rammer.

- b. Upper (First) Pipe (Loop)
- c. Middle (Second) Pipe (Loop)
- d. Upper Sling Swivel
- e. Lower (Third) Pipe (Loop)
- f. Tail Pipe
- g. Lower Swivel
- h. Guard
- i. Trigger (Tricker)
- j. Escutcheon
- k. Escutcheon Nail (Pin)

- l. Heel Plate
- m. Heel Plate Screw
- n. Side Plate
- o. Upper Side Nail (Pin)
- p. Lower Side Nail (Pin)
- q. Breech Pin [Tang] Nail (Pin)
- r. Sling
- s. Sling Buckle

Locations

- a. Swell of Tail Pipe
- b. Small of Stock
- c. Hollow
- d. Flat of Butt
- e. Toe of Butt
- f. Heel of Butt
- g. Swell of Butt
- h. Tang of Heel Plate
- i. Comb

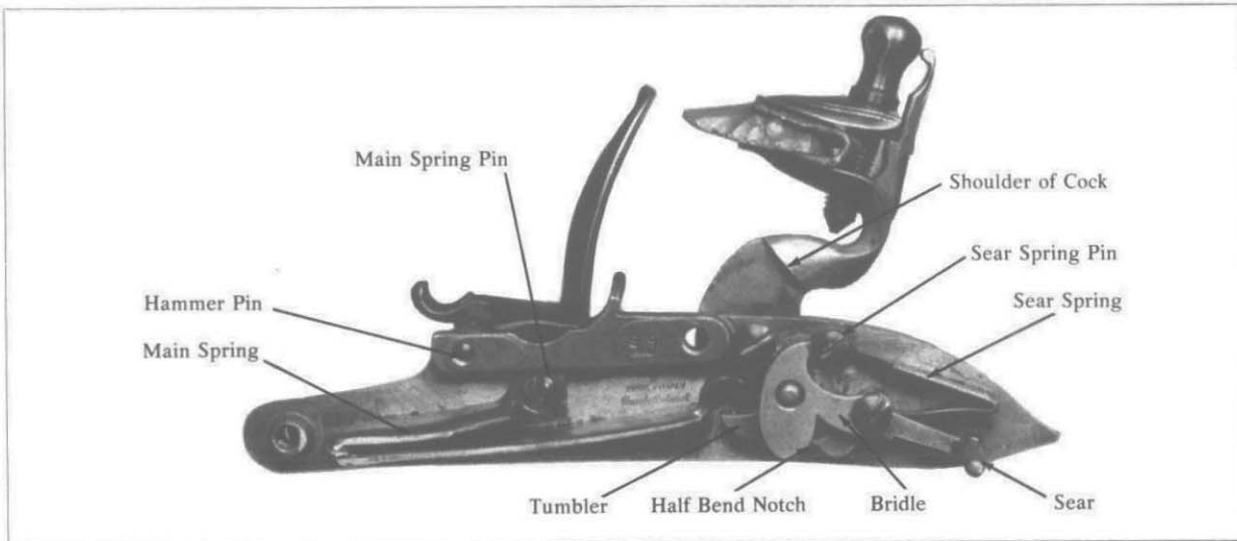
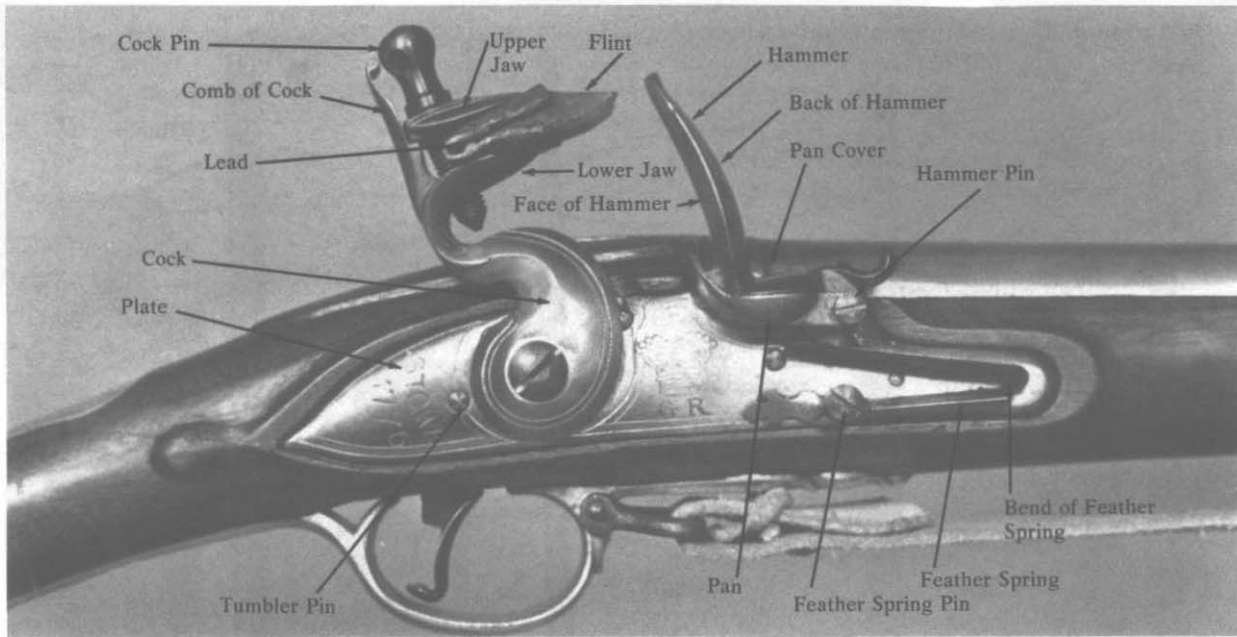


Fig. 6-6 The lock at half-cock showing (a) the external view with the pan closed and (b) the internal view with the sear engaged in the half-cock notch of the tumbler.

Barrel

- a. Muzzle
- b. Sight
- c. Breech
- d. Breech Pin
- e. Touch Hole (Vent)

Rammer

- a. Butt (Head)
- b. Shaft
- c. Point (Screw)

The Lock

The components and important locations of the lock of the Short Land Musket as shown in Figures 6-6, 6-7, and 6-8 are listed below:

Components

Cock

- a. Cock Pin
- b. Upper Jaw
- c. Flint
- d. Flint Lead
- e. Tumbler Pin

Plate

- a. Plate
- b. Pan
- c. Hammer (Steel)
- d. Hammer Nail (Pin)
- e. Feather Spring
- f. Feather (Hammer) Spring Nail (pin)
- g. Mainspring

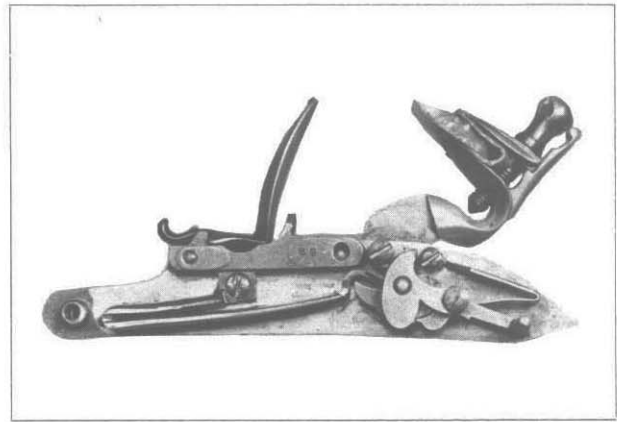
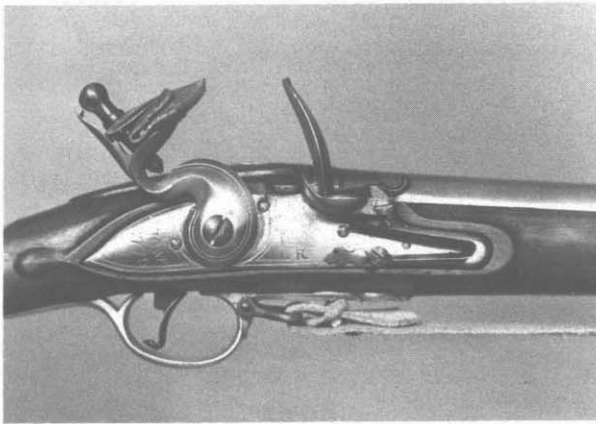


Fig. 6-7 The lock at full-cock showing (a) the external view with the pan closed and (b) the internal view with the sear engaged in the full-cock notch of the tumbler.

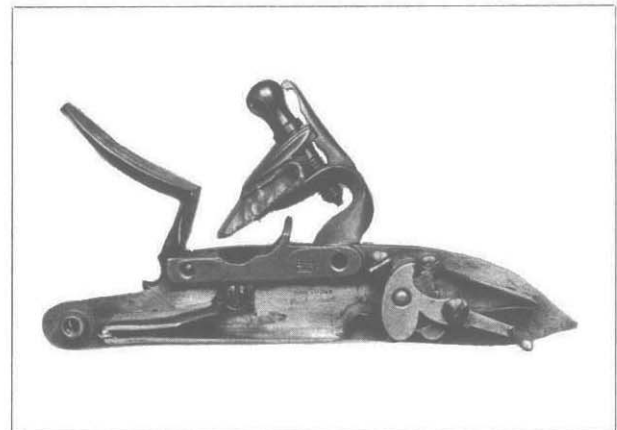
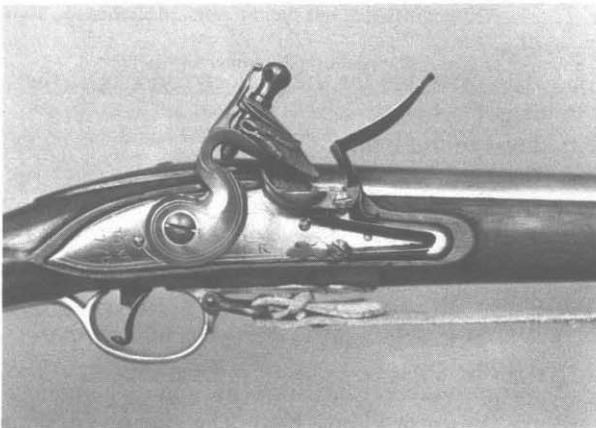


Fig. 6-8 The lock fired showing (a) the external view with the pan open and (b) the internal view with the sear disengaged from the notches of the tumbler.

- h. Mainspring Nail (Pin)
- i. Tumbler
- j. Bridle
- k. Sear
- l. Sear Nail (pin)
- m. Sear Spring
- n. Sear Spring Nail (Pin)

Locations

- a. Comb of Cock
- b. Lower Jaw
- c. Shoulder of Cock
- d. Face of Hammer
- e. Back of Hammer
- f. Pan Cover
- g. Bend of Feather Spring
- h. Half-bend Notch of Tumbler
- i. Full-bend Notch of Tumbler

Operation of the Lock

The habitual position of the lock at the beginning of the Manual Exercise is the half-cock position shown in Figure 6-6. In this state the sear is engaged

in the half-bend notch of the tumbler and sets the lock in the "safe" mode. The stand of the cock clears the edge of the flint from the face of the hammer and allows the pan cover to remain sealed over the pan and retain the priming charge. When the cock is pulled to the rear, the nose of the tumbler rotates upward compressing the mainspring. The nose of the sear, forced up by the pressure of the sear spring, falls into the full-bend notch of the tumbler and holds the cock in the rear-most position as shown in Figure 6-7. When the trigger is pulled to the rear, it rotates around the trigger wire and the top of the blade of the trigger applies pressure upward to the arm of the sear. The sear rotates against the pressure of the sear spring until the nose of the sear slides out of the full-bend notch of the tumbler and releases the cock. The cock rotates about the arbor of the tumbler by the opening of the mainspring as it presses downward on the nose of the tumbler. The flint, clamped in the jaws of the cock by the pressure of the cock pin and the friction of the lead, strikes the face of the hammer held closed by the pressure of the feather spring. As the flint is harder than the steel, the heat of friction scrapes particles of

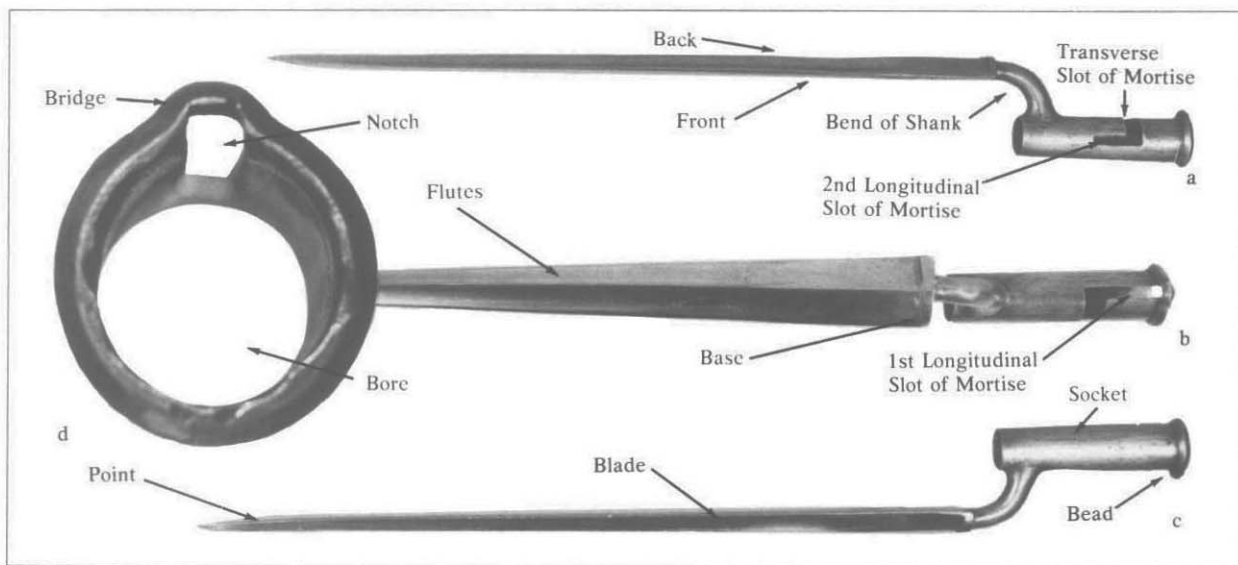


Fig. 6-9. The bayonet (replica) viewed from the (a) bottom, (b) back, (c) top, and (d) rear showing the bridge over the end of the mortise.

molten metal off the face of the hammer. At the same time the camming action of the flint against the hammer opens the pan cover exposing the priming powder in the pan to the descending shower of incandescent sparks.

The sparks fall into the powder, ignite the grains, and the resulting flash of fire burns through the touch hole of the barrel to the powder in the chamber of the breech. The powder charge burns and propels the ball out of the barrel. The cock continues forward until its shoulder strikes the top of the plate which stops the forward motion of the cock, restricts the opening of the mainspring to the confines of the lock mortise, and prevents the hook of the mainspring from becoming disengaged from the tumbler. The hammer and pan cover are held in the open position by the feather spring as shown in Figure 6-8.

Bayonet

The triangular-bladed, socket bayonet for the firelock is shown in Figure 6-9. The principle sections of the bayonet are the *blade*, *shank*, and *socket*. [22] The blade is terminated by the *point* and is attached at its *base* to the socket by the shank. The *front* of the blade is flat while the triangular *back* is grooved by two *flutes* that run from the point to within two inches of the base. The *bend* of the shank offsets the blade from the axis of the bore of the barrel to allow the musket to be loaded and fired with the bayonet fixed. The arrangement of the *longitudinal* and *transverse slots* of the *mortise* of the socket and the sight positions the blade away from the hand during the ramming operation. The transverse slot also provides a stop to prevent the bayonet from disengaging from the barrel when it is withdrawn after thrusting it into a tenacious object.

Cartridge

The cartridge for the firelock consists of the:

- a. Paper cylinder
- b. Lead round ball projectile
- c. Choke thread
- d. Black Powder charge

The positions on the cartridge for this work are the:

- a. Ball end
- b. Top
- c. Twist

A reproduction cartridge [23] and its nomenclature are shown in Figure 6-10. The charge contains sufficient powder to provide priming for the pan and propellant for the ball. After the charge is emptied into the muzzle, the ball and the entire cartridge cylinder are started into the barrel with the forefinger. [24] The diameter of the ball requires that it have the necessary clearance, or windage, to allow the cartridge to be rammed down after the barrel has been fouled by firing. [25]

Training Accessories

The *Regulations* specify that:

"In all exercises in detail, the men will use a piece of wood, instead of a flint; and each soldier should have six pieces of wood, in the form of cartridges, which the serjeant must see taken out of the pieces when the exercise is finished." [26]

These accessories were not an innovation to military practice as the French in 1766 had prescribed the wooden cartridge for blank loading [27] and the wooden flint to prevent damage to the hammer [28] in almost identical wording as the *Regulations*. The French regulations of 1791 recommend the use of bran — or sawdust-filled cartridges for training. [29] General Wolfe in 1755 also recommended the use of the wooden flint:

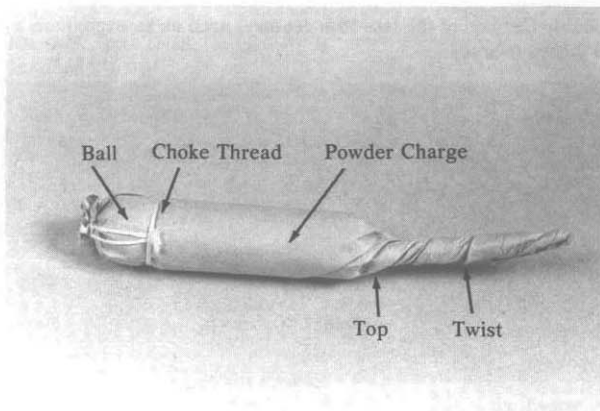


Fig. 6-10 Reproduction of a British-type 0.75 caliber cartridge containing powder and ball in a paper cylinder twisted off at one end and choked off by cord around the ball at the other.

"When the companies come under arms to practice the platoon exercise, they are always to have pieces of wood instead of flints, that their practice may come nearer to their business, and be more familiar to them. [30]

The *Norfolk Discipline* in giving "Directions for the Days of Exercise" admonishes the officers that the men's:

"... flints, or pieces of wood, (which they ought to have on common days of exercise, instead of flints;) are well screwed and fastened in the cock." [31]

Cuthbertson was more specific in his recommendations in 1768:

"... besides a good one [flint] in his piece, a Soldier ought to have another in his pouch, and a small bit of wood, shaped like a flint, to use at exercise, in practicing the firing motions, as the frequent striking up the hammers, must unavoidably break and spoil the flints, without any useful purpose." [32]

Boulton, quoting from an American Revolutionary War orderly book, states that:

"Each man when possible had at least two flints, and also a 'driver' or 'snapper,' which was substituted for the flint at the time of exercise to prevent unnecessary wear of the stone." [33]

Another training substitute that may have been used by Colonial troops is cited by Duane writing 25 years after the end of the Revolution in some "Observations Relating to Loading" which suggested to American drill instructors that:

"He should give them [the men], at the end of a few lessons, some cartridges of bran or saw-dust, to accustom them to load with care." [34]

A conjectural reconstruction of wooden cartridges and a wooden flint are shown in Figure 6-11.

Espontoon

Polearms used by the American infantry battalion officers varied in patterns. [35] Some displayed

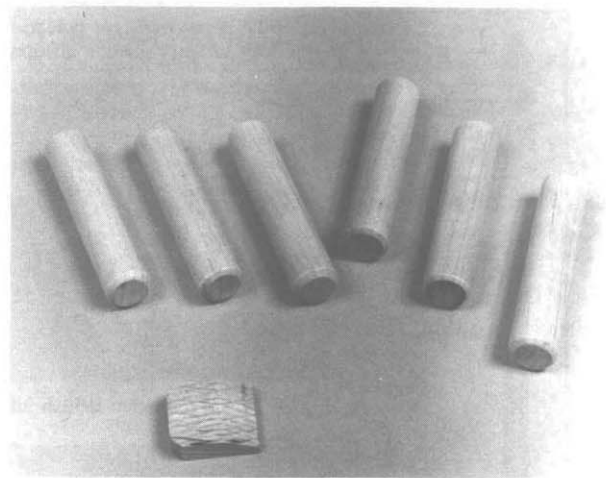


Fig. 6-11 Six, 3-inch by 1/2 inch diameter wooden dummy cartridges for practicing the manual exercise. A wooden flint ("snapper" or "driver") was also used to replace the flint for dry firing.

the features of the partisan polearm with a symmetrical blade and ornamental projections, as shown in Figure 6-12. Others carried a blade of a leaf-shaped pattern with a cross-bar below. The components and features of the espontoon are the:

Components

- a. Iron [36]
- b. Blade [37]
- c. Socket
- d. Staff
- e. Shoe [38]

Locations

- a. Point
- b. Flat [39] of Blade
- c. Butt [40]

Swords

The non-commissioned officer's sword illustrated in Figure 6-13 is a reproduction of the British Infantry Sword, circa. 1751, with a single edged blade and a cast brass hilt of a half-basket design. The officer's sword shown in Figure 6-14 is a reproduction of a British officer's short saber, circa. 1760 with a curved blade, silver guard and a wire-wrapped, leather grip.

The basic parts of the sword are the *blade* and the *hilt* with the following components and locations:

Blade

- a. Cutting edge
- b. Point
- c. False edge
- d. Back

Hilt

- a. Guard
- b. Knuckle Bow
- c. Pommel
- d. Grip
- e. Sword Knot

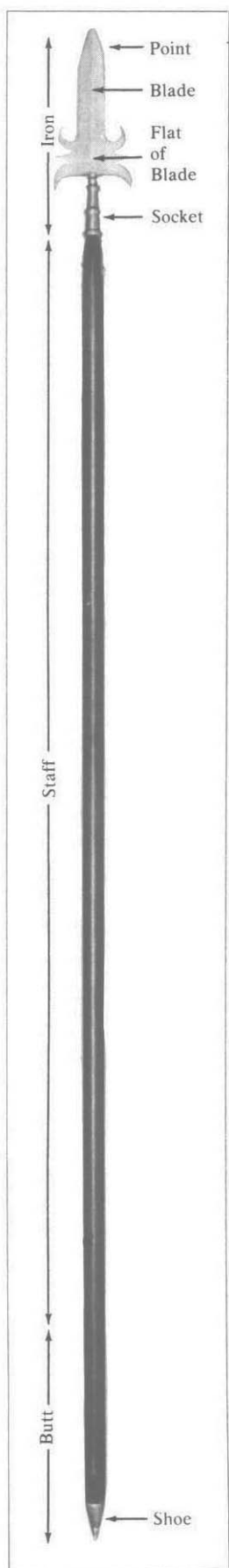


Fig. 6-12 A partizan-type polearm (probably German of the late 18th century) used as an espontoon by American infantry platoon officers. (80 inches overall)

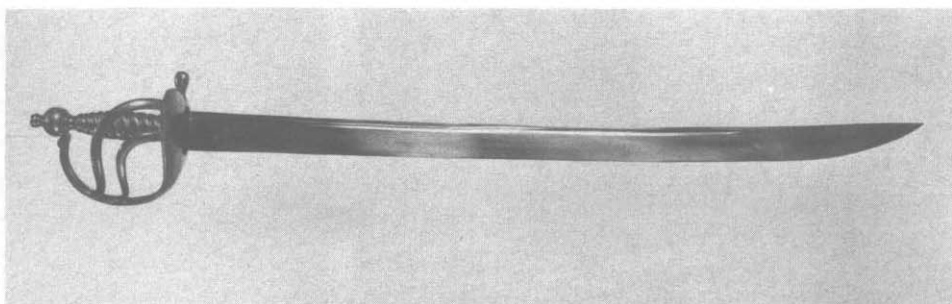


Fig. 6-13 Reproduction British infantry sword, circa 1751 (30¾ inches overall).

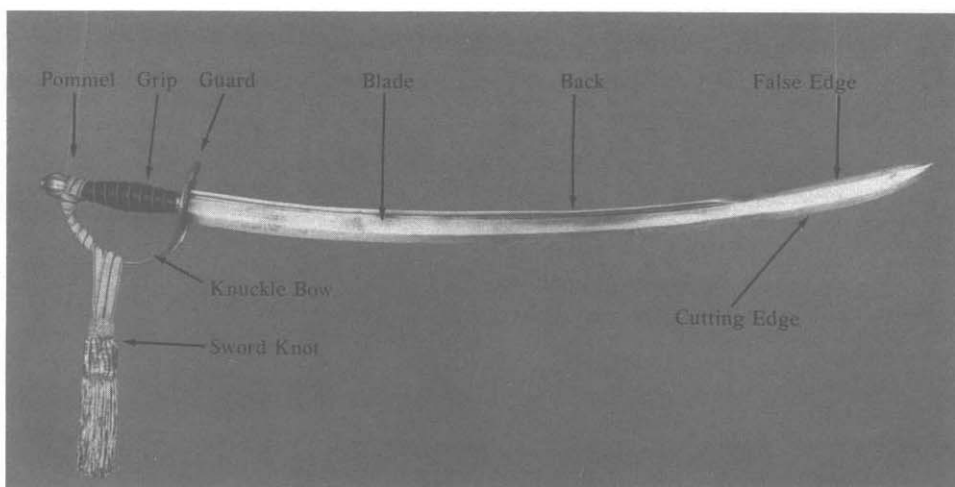


Fig. 6-14 Reproduction British officer's saber, circa. 1760 (34 inches overall).

Uniforms, Arms and Accoutrements

The uniforms and equipment shown in Chapter VII through XIV to demonstrate the manual exercises for musket, espontoon and sword, are except for the espontoon, modern reproductions of the period of the American Revolution. The espontoon is an original 18th century example, probably of German origin.

Notes to Chapter 6

UNIFORMS, ARMS & ACCOUTREMENTS

1. The uniforms and equipment shown in all of the illustrations are, except for the espontoon, current reproductions of the period of the American Revolution.
2. *Regulations, 1779*, Ch. I, p. 5.
3. A.E. Haswell and N.P. Dawnay, *Military Drawings and Paintings in the Collection of Her Majesty the Queen* Vol. 1, London: Paidon Press Ltd., 1970 (2nd ed.) Artist David Morier's 1751 painting of British grenadiers of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Regiments of Foot on Plate 60 and several other plates show clearly that the bayonet was worn with the flat of the blade, and consequently the socket, toward the body. Cf. Bernard Lens, *The Grenadiers Exercise of Guards, 1735*, Plate 5 (outward); *Ordonnance du Roy, 1755*, Figure No. 6 (inward); George Grant, *The New Highland Military Discipline*, London: 1757, Plate 8 (inward); *Ordonnance du Roi, 1766*, Figure 6 (inward); and T.L. Mitchell, *H.M. Regulations, 1828*, London: 1828, Plate XXIV (inward).
4. Albert W. Haarmann, "Uniforms of the British Infantry in America, Circa. 1742," *Military Collector and Historian*, Vol. XIX, No. 1, Spring 1967, pp. 12-14, showing the mode of wearing accoutrements according to *A Representation of the Cloathing of His Majesty's Household, and of all the Forces upon the Establishments of Great Britain and Ireland, 1742. Norfolk Discipline, 1759*, Plates 4 and 19.
5. Cuthbertson, *System for Management of a Battalion of Infantry*, 1768, p. 97.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 98.
7. *Ibid.*, pp. 98-99.
8. Haarmann, *op. cit.*, Figures 1-4 (British, 1742); *Ordonnance du Roy, 1755*, Plate No. 21 (French, 1755); *Norfolk Discipline, 1759*, Plates 2 and 41 (British, 1759); *Regulations, 1779* (U.S., 1779); Haswell and Dawnay, *op. cit.*, Plate 152 (Hanoverian, 1790).
9. Cuthbertson, *op. cit.*, pp. 109-110.

10. *Ibid.*, pp. 77-78.
11. *Ibid.*, p. 101
12. Peterson, *Book of the Continental Soldier*, 1968, pp. 242, 244.
13. *Regulations, 1779*, Ch. I, p. 5.
14. The details of the construction of a similar shoulder belt are shown by Robert L. Klinger and Richard A. Wilder, *Sketchbook 76*, Arlington, Va.: Cooper-Trent, 1967, p. 37 and by Warren Moore, *Weapons of the American Revolution*, New York: Promontory Press, 1967, p. 198, Figure A-44.
15. Peterson, *op. cit.*, p. 243. A silver epaulette was worn by infantry on the left shoulder by lieutenants and on the right by captains.
16. Washington, *Writings*, Vol. 10, p. 190. General Orders. Head Quarters. Valley Forge, December 22, 1777.
17. *Regulations, 1779*, Ch. I, p. 5.
18. Cuthbertson, *op. cit.*, p. 115.
19. Simes, *Military Guide*, 1776, p. 333. "Camp Duties and Regulations," September 30, 1745.
20. The musket shown in Fig. 6-5 is a reproduction of a Brown Bess captured at Saratoga and is one of many made up by Valmore J. Forget of Navy Arms, Inc. during the Bicentennial of the American Revolution. The locks of a few prototypes were marked *STOWE* for Gerald C. Stowe, curator of the West Point Museum, who instigated their manufacture. Later reproductions were marked *GRICE*, the name of the original gunmaker.
21. The term "nail" is used in place of "screw" in the British manual exercise as practiced in 1791 according to the "Treatise on Military Affairs," *The New Royal Encyclopaedia*, Vol. I, ed. by William Henry Hall, 2nd ed., London: C. Cooke, ca. 1795-1801. Early 18th century American, small arms nomenclature refers to screws fastening into metal as "pins" and those into wood as "screws." Cf. C. Meade Patterson, "U.S. Military Flintlock Parts," *Muzzle Blasts*, Vol. XII, October, 1951, p. 4. "Return of Ordnance and Military Stores at Suchesumma Plains, West Point, Fishkill and Litchfield, 1 March 1780," lists "side pins," "cock pins," "trumpet, tail" and "small pipes." Cf. von Steuben Papers, Roll 4, New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, N. J. "Instructions for Musketry" in *Drill and Rifle Instruction for Volunteer Rifle Corps* (by authority of the Secretary of State for War), London: W. Clowes and Sons, 1859, pp. 45-56 contains a detailed nomenclature of the Enfield Rifle using the term "nail" for all of the screws of the lock, stock, and barrel.
22. These terms are used in Plate I of the *Norfolk Discipline*, showing the "Explanation of the Names of the several parts of a Firelock & Bayonet." Pickering's *Discipline* uses the term "handle" as an option for "Socket" of the bayonet and "neck" and "hollow" in place of "shank" and "bend."
23. Instructions for making ball cartridges are found in Pickering's *Discipline*, pp. 2-3 and Figure 2 of Plate 1. Choking of the ball end is illustrated in the *Bannerman Anniversary Military Goods Catalog, No. 26, 1945-1946-1947* ed., Appendix, p.o.
24. Pickering, *Discipline*, Part I, p. 18.
25. *Ibid.*, Part I, p. 3.
26. *Regulations, 1779*, Ch. VI, p. 32.
27. *Ordonnance du Roi, 1766*, p. 20. "... on les perfectionnera dans la charge du fusil; a cet effet on les fera charger a vide avec une cartouche de bois de meme modele que les cartouches ordinaires . . ."
28. *Ibid.* "... alors on armera les fusils de pierre de bois pour ne pas gater la batterie."
29. Colonel Irenee Amelot De Lacroix, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise, and Manoeuvres of the French Infantry, 1791*, Boston: T.B. Wait and Co., 1810, Vol. 1, p. 51.
30. Major General James Wolfe, *Instructions to Young Officers*, London: J. Milan, 1780, p. 35. Reprinted by Museum Restoration Service, Ottawa, 1967.
31. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part II, p. 45.
32. Cuthbertson, *op. cit.*, p. 92.
33. Charles Knowles Bolton, *The Private Soldier Under Washington*. Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1902(?), p. 120.
34. William Duane, *The System of Discipline and Manoeuvres of Infantry*, Philadelphia: William Duane, 1807, p. 30.
35. Peterson, *Book of the Continental Soldier*, 1968, p. 98.
36. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part I, p. 27.
37. Charles Henry Ashdown, *British and Continental Arms and Armour*, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1970, p. 324. (Republication of *British and Foreign Arms and Armour*, London and Edinburgh: T. C. & E. C. Jack, 1909.)
38. *Ibid.*
39. Faucitt, *Regulations for the Prussian Infantry*, 1759, p. 136.
40. *Ibid.*

Chapter VII

INSTRUCTION OF THE RECRUIT

The Instruction of the Recruit in the *Regulations* covers the position of the soldier without arms at attention, rest and dressing; the facings; the steps; and the position of the soldier under arms at attention.

The Position of the Soldier

The description in the *Regulations* of the position of the soldier *without arms* [1] is unique in several respects. This appears to be the first time the position of attention without arms is described in military manuals. While the Prussian, [2] French, [3] British, [4] and American [5] contemporary manuals all contain instructions that the head or eyes must be turned to the right, none of them is so precise as to specify that the soldier must stand "with his head turned to the right so far as to bring the left eye over the waistcoat buttons." The purpose of turning the head to the right was to observe the fugleman. [6] Pickering explains the function of the fugleman as follows:

"Whenever the manual exercise is performed, one man should be advanced from ten to twenty feet, or more, according to the length of the front of soldiers, directly before the right-hand man, to shew the motions of the exercise. This man is called the fogleman, or posture-master, at whom every soldier must look attentively, and from him take the motions: For this purpose he should stand in an oblique position, so as to look full to the center of the body of soldiers, that all may have the fairest view of him. In teaching the exercise, the person who does it, especially if he also shews the motions, ought to stand in the manner here directed for the fugler, even if the number of men he is instructing does not exceed half a dozen, as well as to accustom them to look to the right, as that he also may see the motion of every man at the same glance of the eyes. Looking to the right is so essentially necessary both in performing the manual exercise and in marching, that at first it might not be amiss to give it in command — *Look to the right!*" Upon which every man turning his head briskly, and looking steadfastly at the fugler, you will begin to teach the exercise. [7]

Although there is no reference in the *Regula-*

tions to the fogleman, instructions at Valley Forge to the guard for rendering honors mentions that when the guard is formed in two ranks:

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Valley Forge
Saturday, May 16, 1778

"When a guard parades they must be formed in two ranks agreeable to the Instructions already given for the formation of Troops, the Officer to the right of the front Rank a Serjeant covering him in the same manner as formed for the Charge, The Drums to the right of the Officer and the Sentinels to the right of the Drums a little advanced: There must be no single man. The Sentinel will give the time;" [8]

The second difference is the position of the feet. The distance separating the heels in the 1759 *Norfolk Discipline* is "four inches." [9] The British 1764, the French 1766, and Pickering's 1775 manual exercises have brought the heels together. The *Regulations* prescribe a compromise of two inches, reverting back to the separation of the heels described by the French regulations of 1755. [10]

The angle between the feet is defined only as "he toes turned out a little." [11] Pickering's diagram of the position of the feet [12] and later the British drill regulations of 1803 [13] indicate that the included angle between the long axes of the feet is about 60 degrees.

Von Steuben's *Instructions* issued at Valley Forge added some stipulations to the position of attention, no doubt brought on by the winter climate:

"Before the word *march* & after the word *Halt* is given no Soldier is to move in any manner, his feet or arms, & even tho he march without Arms, he must not Stir his hands, blow his nose, & much less talk." [14]

The Facings

The method of performing the facings to the right and left in the *Regulations* followed those of the Prussians and the French whereby the first movement is made by turning on both heels, keeping the center of the left heel fixed, and replacing the right

foot along-side the left. Although Pickering continued to use the procedure used by the British, where the right foot is moved forward or backward in the first movement to face to the left or right, the *Regulations* adopted his scheme of removing the facings from the manual exercise. Pickering points out that the intricate procedure of coming to the "Recover" before facing when armed with the musket, as required in the '64 Manual Exercise, was a carryover from the simultaneous movements of the pikemen and musketeers "charging" on one flank or another. As the pikes and the muskets had to be raised in consonance to the *recover* before a facing could be performed, the movements facilitated the "charging" rather than providing practice for the facing movements. [15] Von Steuben must have recognized Pickering's economy. He also eliminated the Prussian characteristic of stamping the right foot at the completion of the facing movements.

The Steps

Duane, writing in 1809 on the origin and tactics of war, claimed that the introduction of the "iron ramrod, and the equal steps" [16] were the two most important influences on the progress of tactics in the 18th century. The iron ramrod increased the rate of fire of musketry, but:

"The equal step, in other words, that motion well combined of equal *times* and *spaces*, in which men of every stature are required to march in military order, must be considered as one of the causes, by which fire has been improved, because, to produce an effectual fire, it was necessary to know how to make movements in lines of great length, in known periods of time." [17]

Pickering described the importance of marching to military operations:

The marching well is of utmost importance in real service; no attention therefore, nor pains are to be spared in rendering the men as perfect in it as possible: without it indeed they will not deserve the name of soldiers. For should they be arranged with utmost exactness, unless they have been accustomed to march, at the same time keeping the ranks and files straight and in good order, they can neither advance towards, nor retreat from an enemy, nor from any new disposition of attack, without falling into confusion: yet one or the other, and sometimes all, of these things are absolutely necessary to be performed in the course of an engagement." [18]

Perfecting under Frederick II (The Great) of Prussia, marching in cadence was soon adopted by the major powers. The importance of this capability is reflected in the Prussian, French, British, and American manuals of the period by the very detailed descriptions of the procedures for training the soldiers in the various steps. The steps for marching prescribed in the *Regulations* are limited to the "common" and "quick" step to the front, the "right" and "left" oblique step, and the "halt."

The Common Step

The common, "slow," or "ordinary" step used by other nations prior to and during the Revolution was also called the "Prussian" step. [19] The cadence was 60 steps a minute. The novel feature of this step was the manner in which the foot was brought forward with the sole of the shoe always parallel to the ground. When the soldier reached the end of his stride, about 24 inches, the leg was held stretched out in an almost imperceptible pause with the knee stiff, the toe pointed out, and the foot an inch or two above the ground. Then without losing his motion or retracting his step, the foot was "planted" flat on the ground. Contrary to the old step used by the Prussians, where the foot was lifted high but "brought back and set down on the ground again very near the other," [20] the foot is carried forward constantly with an "easy motion, and near the ground, so as to always advance." [21]

The instructions for the common step in the *Regulations* call for a step of two feet, heel-to-heel, at a rate of "about seventy-five in a minute." The detailed description of the movement is brief:

"The soldier steps off with his left foot and a free, easy and natural step, without altering the position of his body or head, taking care to preserve a proper balance, and not cross his legs, but to march without constraint, in every sort of ground: The officer must march sometimes at his side, in order to join example to precept." [22]

From this description there is nothing that specifies directly the movements for the slow step prescribed for British, French, and Prussian armies or the American militia. However, certain words used in this description, i.e., "free," [23] "easy," [24] "natural," [25] "balance," [26] appear also in contemporary instructions for the slow step. If the step were made as one walks naturally, with the heels striking the ground first, there should be little need for an officer to march close before or alongside the soldier to provide an example. The *Norfolk Discipline* admits "this being a motion extremely beautiful and graceful, when well performed, but very difficult to describe." [27]

In learning the slow step, close supervision was a necessity, "the chief difficulty is to make them understand the nature of the step; most awkward fellows, especially those who are used to follow the plough," [28] required the most attention. The *Regulation's* instructions for the private soldier state further that:

When learning to march, he must take the greatest pains to acquire a firm step and a proper balance, practicing himself at all his leisure hours. [29]

One of the advantages of the slow step claimed by the *Norfolk Discipline* over the old marching step was "that a body moves faster, and gains more

ground by it.” [30] At the time von Steuben was instructing the troops at Valley Forge in column formations, Washington issued an instruction regarding the quality of marching he observed:

TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WM. SMALLWOOD
Head Quarters,
May 1, 1778

In order to correct the vicious step which our Soldiers have contracted, and introduce a natural march easy to the Soldiers and calculated to gain ground, it will be necessary to discontinue the use of Music for some time. [31]

This similarity of terms regarding the capability to “gain ground,” as described by both the *Norfolk Discipline* and Washington’s letter to Smallwood, seems further evidence that the “slow step” described is the same as the “Prussian Step.”

Von Steuben’s initial instruction for the slow step on March 24, 1778 at Valley Forge directed that:

2d. The Soldiers Placed in the Ranks and Dressed as have been directed, are to march to the Front, at the word of Command, *To the front March*, all the Soldiers raise their Left feet at Once, Look to the right, & Advance with an Easy free & Natural Step; Regulated by the Officer of the right wing, *without Bending the Knees to [o] much* [italics; EWP] or Projecting the Breast. [32]

Even near the end of the war, the troops still exhibited deficiencies in their marching and were reminded of these by Washington:

GENERAL ORDER
Verplank’s Point,
Wednesday, September 18, 1782

The general had discovered at some of the late Manoeuvres in some instances an inattention in marching; for besides the loss of step, which alone is sufficient to give an awkward movement, to a division or platoon, he has remarked that many of the soldiers do not step boldly and freely; but short and with *bent knees* [italics; EWP]. The officers commanding platoons and divisions will see that these defects are remedied [sic] and that the men while marching by the reviewing officer carry their bodies erect, look well up, incline their heads to the right and look full in the face of that officer; this last to be considered a standing order. [33]

The correspondence between words used in the *Regulations* to describe the slow step and those of contemporary manuals, along with the observations made by Washington concerning the performance of the Army, indicates that the “common step” of the *Regulations* was probably the “Prussian Step” of the 18th century. This step, introduced into the British Army in the 1750’s, as illustrated in the *Norfolk Discipline* [34] in Figure 7-1a, was prescribed in American drill manuals until well after the Civil War. The earliest American illustrations of the slow step were shown in manuals of 1812, [35] Figure 7-1b, 1813, [36] Figure 7-1c, and 1815, [37] Figure 7-1d, before the von Steuben *Regulations* were suspended in 1820. The illustrations of the slow step continue to appear into the 1820’s and 1830’s as seen in the 1823 regulations for the Pennsylvania militia, [38] Figure 7-1e, the United States regulations of 1825, [39] Figure

7-1f, 1826, [40] Figure 7-1g, and those of 1835, [41] Figure 7-1h.

The Regulations of 1779 did not state what was to be done with the hand when marching, but it appears that they would have been kept at the sides, as was the Prussian custom:

It is to be observed further, that in all wheelings, in marching, and on all duties, the men carry their firelocks firm and steady on their shoulders, and their right hands must hang down their right sides. [42]

The Quick Step

The quick step was performed “on the same principle” [43] as the common step with the same distance between the heels but at a rate of 120 steps a minute.

The Halt

Contrary to modern American practice, where an additional step is taken after the command “Halt!” the colonial soldier was required to be more responsive:

At this word the soldier stops short, on the foot then advanced, immediately bringing up the other, without stamping. [44]

The Oblique Step

This diagonal step was practiced at both common and quick time. In this step the soldier moves in a diagonal line with respect to the front, but, by crossing his legs while keeping his body faced to the front, maintains contact with the adjacent member of his rank. Pickering explains the utility of this movement:

The oblique is of great use on many occasions, and renders several evolutions much more simple and easy; by it you always preserve your front, and avoid wheelings and other motions, which require longer time to compass the same end, and, when near an enemy, especially if you are straightened for time, are dangerous to be attempted. [45]

Position of the Soldier Under Arms

The position of the soldier at attention with the firelock shouldered was the basic position of the manual exercise. The firelocks during this period were carried upright against the shoulder so they would not interfere with those of other soldiers standing at close order. This was quite different from the previous century when the heavy muskets were carried at open order almost horizontally upon the shoulder and supported at the hollow, rather than the butt, of the stock. Pickering observes that:

Standing shouldered, is the first position of a soldier under arms, it being the most graceful and easy manner of carrying a firelock, either standing or marching, and that from which all other actions are to be performed with the greatest facility and grace. [46]

The *Norfolk Discipline* provided several admonitions for the performance of this position, warning that:

Great care must be taken, that the men carry their

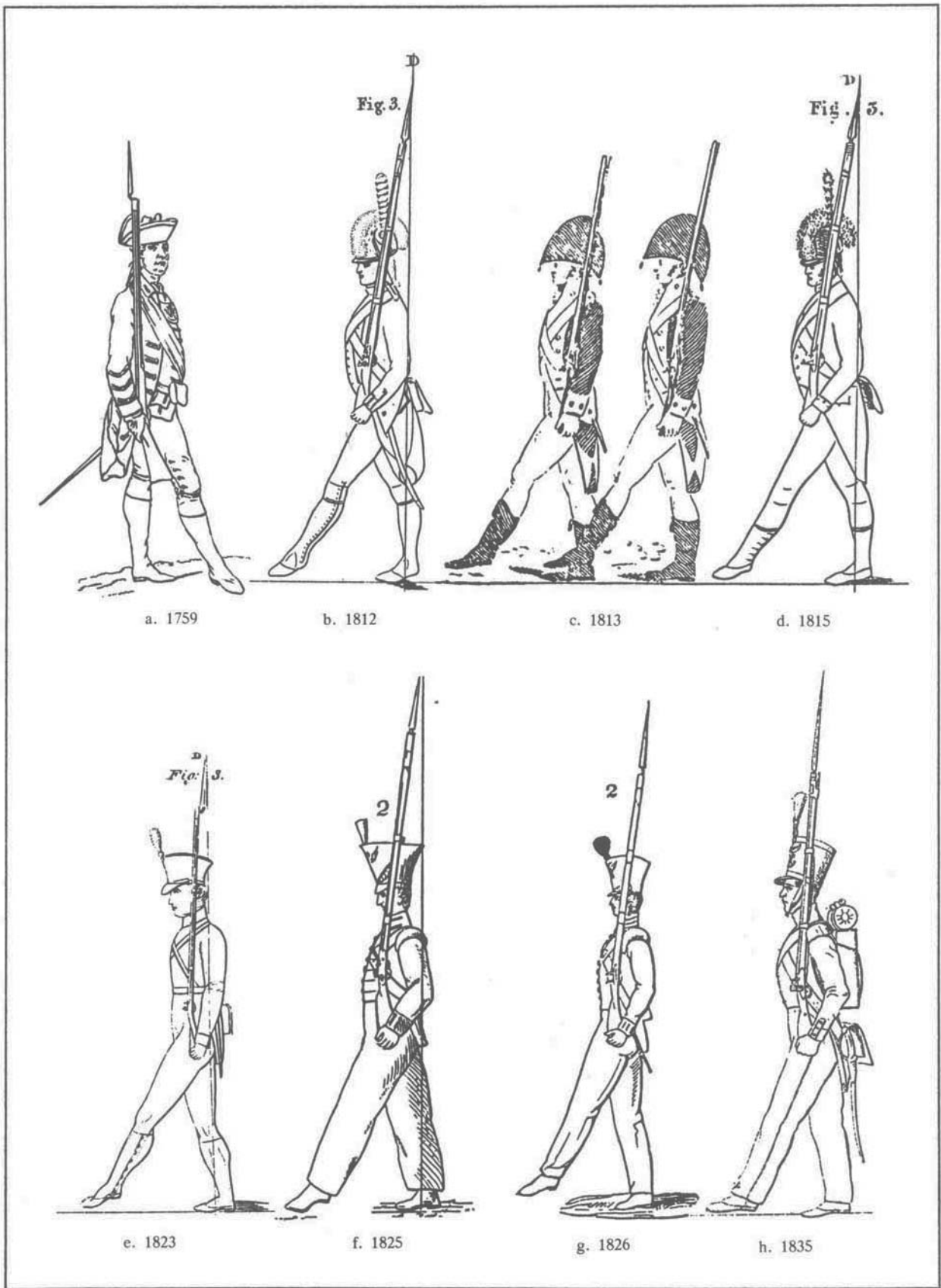


Fig. 7-1 The Prussian step according to (a) the *Norfolk Discipline* of 1759 and the common, or ordinary, step as illustrated in United States *Regulations* of (b) 1812, (c) 1813, (d) 1815, (e) 1823, and (f) 1825, (g) 1826 and (h) 1835.

arms well; they must therefore be first of all carefully taught to keep them even and steady upon their shoulders . . . That the firelocks, when shouldered, may be dressed in a rank and file; the men must keep their bodies upright, and full in front; and not have one shoulder forwarder than the other. It is one of the greatest perfections in exercising, to have all the firelocks carried exactly even, and the motions so true, that in looking from the right or left of a rank, you can see, as it were, but one firelock: and the same standing in front to a file, each piece covering the others exactly.[47]

And, finally, a caution regarding the movements and position of the firelock:

In shouldering, to take care that the men do not make any wide motions, nor advance their left hand to far from the left side when they bring it under the butt, which is a fault they are very apt to commit.[48]

Instructions for the Recruit

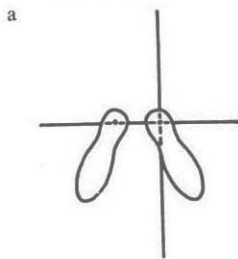
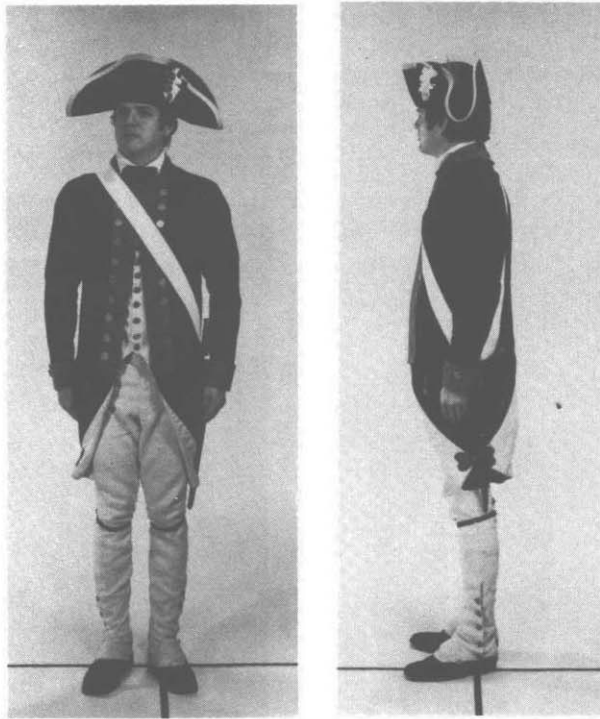
The following descriptions and illustrations cover the positions and movements for the recruit:

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. <i>Position of the Soldier without Arms</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Attention</i> | Figure 7-2 |
| 2. <i>Rest!</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Rest</i> | Figure 7-3 |
| 3. <i>Attention!</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Attention</i> | Figure 7-4 |
| 4. <i>To the Left, Dress!</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Turn Head</i> | Figure 7-5 |
| 5. <i>To the Right, Dress!</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Return Head</i> | Figure 7-6 |
| 6. <i>To the Right, Face!</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Face Right</i> | Figure 7-7 |
| Second Count | <i>Return Foot</i> | Figure 7-8 |
| 7. <i>To the Left, Face!</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Face Left</i> | Figure 7-9 |
| Second Count | <i>Return Foot</i> | Figure 7-10 |
| 8. <i>To the Right About, Face!</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Step Back</i> | Figure 7-11 |
| Second Count | <i>Face Rear</i> | Figure 7-12 |
| Third Count | <i>Return Foot</i> | Figure 7-13 |
| 9. <i>To the Front, March!</i> | | |
| First Count | | |
| Part 1 | <i>Advance Foot</i> | Figure 7-14 |
| Part 2 | <i>Plant Foot</i> | Figure 7-15 |
| 10. <i>Halt!</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Plant Foot</i> | Figure 7-16 |
| Second Count | <i>Bring up Rear Foot</i> | Figure 7-17 |
| 11. <i>Obliquely, To the Right!</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Plant Right Foot</i> | Figure 7-18 |
| Second Count | <i>Bring up Left Foot</i> | Figure 7-19 |
| 12. <i>Obliquely, To the Left!</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Plant Left Foot</i> | Figure 7-20 |
| Second Count | <i>Bring up Right Foot</i> | Figure 7-21 |
| 13. <i>Position of a Soldier under Arms</i> | | |
| First Count | <i>Shoulder, Firelock</i> | Figure 7-22 |

BEING THE SOLDIER WITHOUT ARMS, To Assume the Position of Attention:

ATTENTION! [49] (One Count) Figure 7-2

1. Stand straight and firm upon the legs.
2. Place the heels two inches apart.
3. Turn the toes outward so the included angle between the feet is about 60 degrees.
4. Draw in the stomach slightly without constraint.
5. Project the chest forward slightly.
6. Hold the shoulders square to the front.
7. Turn the head to the right, the left eye over the center of the body.
8. Place the palms of the hands against the thighs, the:
 - a. Arms hanging down the sides in a natural, unconstrained position.
 - b. Fingers and thumb extended down without stiffness.
9. Move neither hand nor foot, except as ordered.
10. Remain silent.
11. Attend carefully to the words of command.



BEING AT ATTENTION, to Rest:
REST! (One Count) Figure 7-3

1. Remain in place.
2. Stand unless permitted otherwise.
3. Move feet and hands as comfortable.

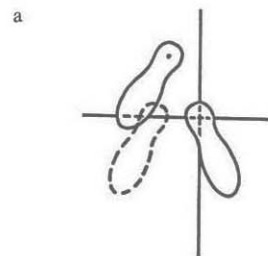


Fig. 7-2 Position of a *Soldier at Attention without Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 7-3 Position of *Rest* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT REST to assume the Position of Attention:

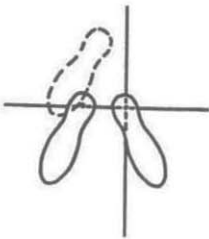
ATTENTION! (One Count) Figure 7-4

1. Replace the left heel in the position occupied previously.
2. Bring up the right foot alongside and two inches from the left heel with the toes pointed outward.
3. Place the hands at the sides, palms toward the thighs.
4. Turn the head to the right, the left eye over the center of the body.
5. Stand firm and steady.
6. Remain silent.



a

b



BEING AT ATTENTION, to Dress to the Left:

To the Left, —DRESS! (One Count) (Turn Head) Figure 7-5

1. Turn the head briskly to the left.
2. Bring the right eye over the center of the body.
3. Move steadily by steps of two or three inches to the alignment of the men on the left.
4. Touch the left elbow lightly to the right elbow of the man on the left.



a

b

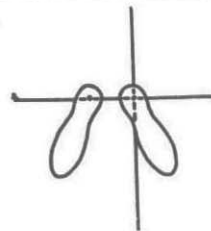


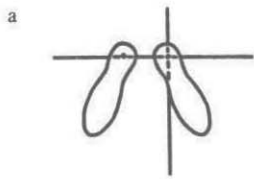
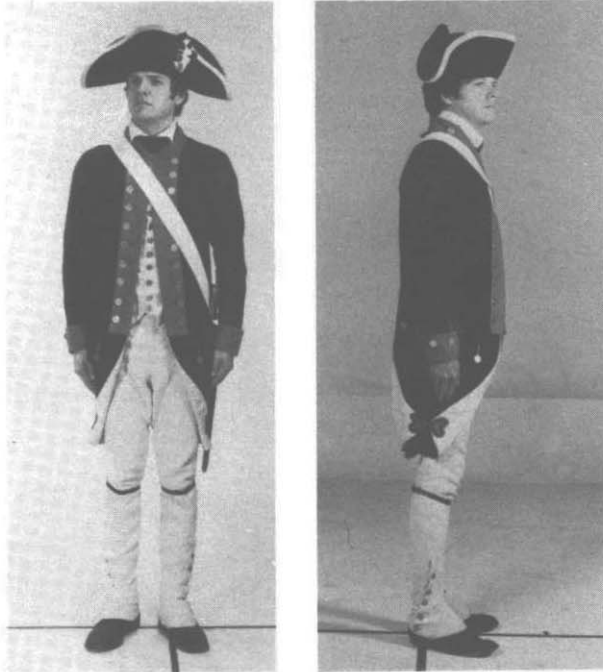
Fig. 7-4 Position of Attention from Rest viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 7-5 Position of To the Left, Dress from Attention viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT LEFT DRESS to Dress to the Right:

To the *Right*. —*DRESS!* (One Count) (ReturnHead) Figure 7-6

1. Turn the head briskly to the right.
2. Bring the left eye over the center of the body.
3. Move steadily by steps of two to three inches to the alignment of the men on the right.
4. Touch the right elbow lightly to the left elbow of the man on the right.



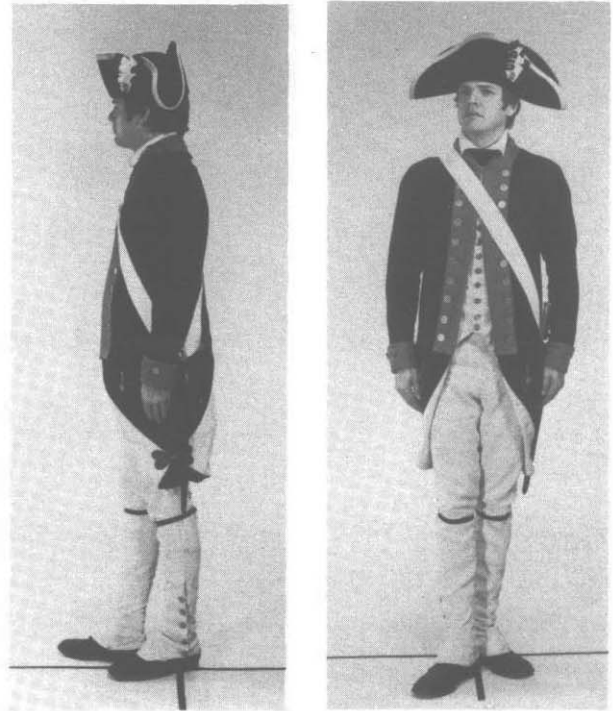
b

BEING AT THE POSITION OF ATTENTION, to Face to the Right:

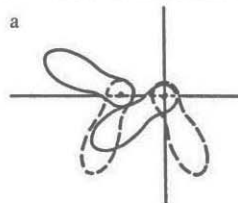
To the *Right*. —*FACE!* (Two Counts)

First Count (*Face Right*) Figure 7-7

1. Lift the toes of both feet slightly.
2. Turn smartly on both heels 90 degrees to the right.



a



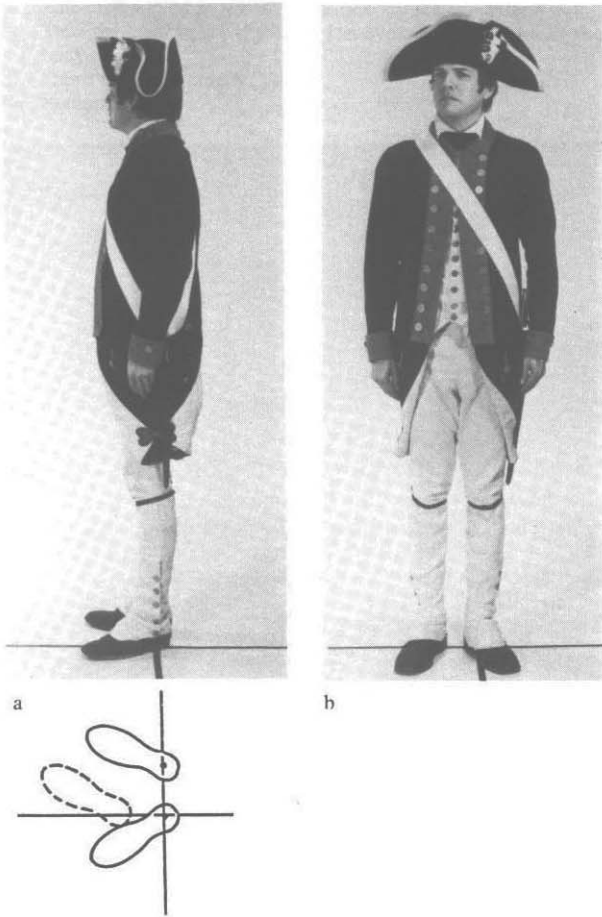
b

Fig. 7-6 Position of *To the Right, Dress* from *To the Left, Dress* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Fig. 7-7 Position of *To the Right, Face, First Count* from *Attention* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Second Count (*Return Foot*) Figure 7-8

1. Bring the right foot back smartly.
2. Place the right heel at the side of and two inches from the left heel without stamping.



BEING AT THE POSITION OF ATTENTION, to Face to the Left:
To the Left, —FACE! (Two Counts) Figure 7-9

First Count (*Face Left*)

1. Lift the toes of both feet slightly.
2. Turn smartly on both heels 90 degrees to the left.

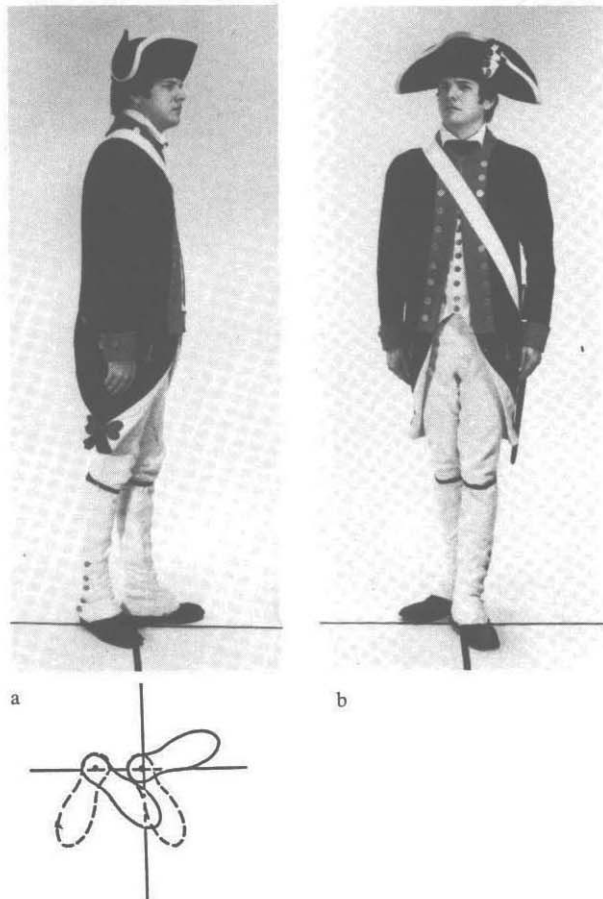
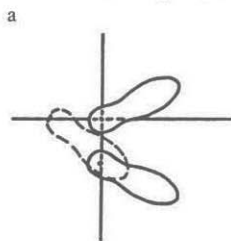
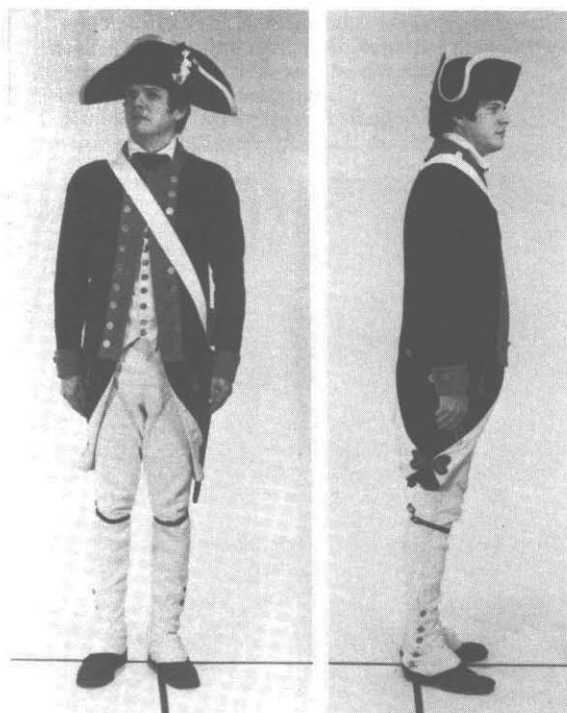


Fig. 7-8 Position of *To the Right, Face, Second Count* from *Attention* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Fig. 7-9 Position of *To the Left, Face, First Count* from *Attention* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Return Foot*) Figure 7-10

1. Bring the right foot up smartly.
2. Place the right heel at the side of and two inches from the left heel without stamping.



BEING AT THE POSITION OF ATTENTION, to Face to the Rear:
To the *Right About*. —FACE! (Three Counts)

First Count (*Step Back*) Figure 7-11

1. Step back with the right foot, placing the:
 - a. Instep three inches behind the left heel.
 - b. Length of the foot perpendicular to that of the left.
2. Place the palm of the right hand on the right hip, the fingers down. [50]

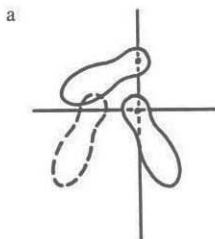


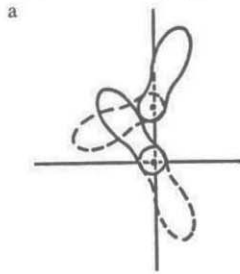
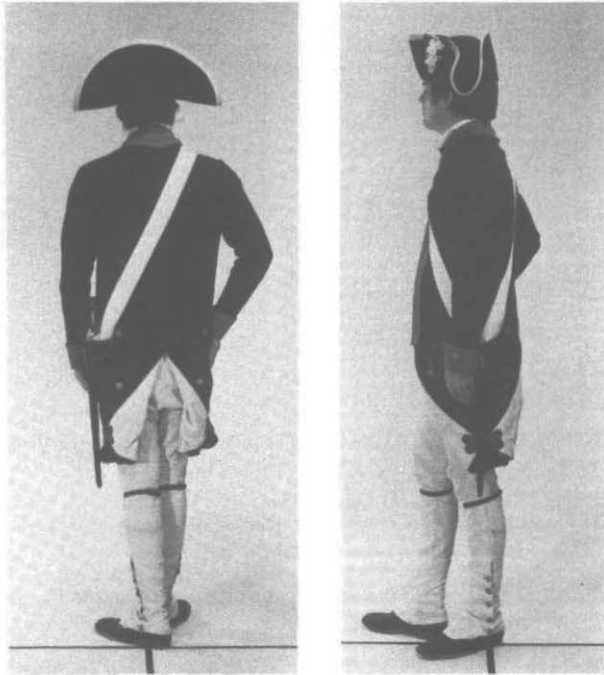
Fig. 7-10 Position of *To the Left, Face, Second Count* from *Attention* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 7-11 Position of *To the Right About, Face, First Count* from *Attention* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Second Count (*Face Rear*) Figure 7-12

Raise the toes of both feet slightly.

2. Turn briskly on both heels 180 degrees to the right.



Third Count (*Return Foot*) Figure 7-13

1. Bring the right foot back smartly.
2. Place the right heel at the side of and two inches from the left heel without stamping.
3. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm toward the thigh.

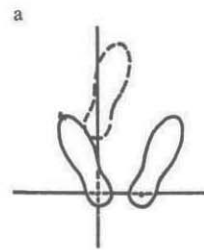
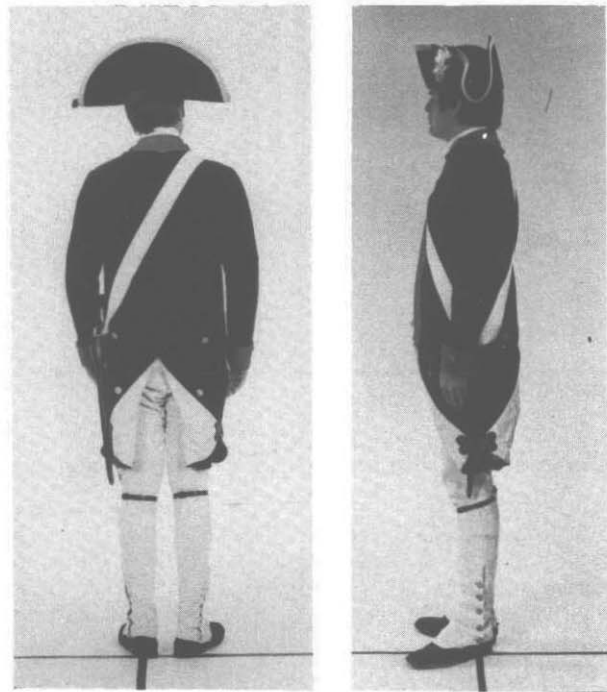


Fig. 7-12 Position of *To the Right About, Face, Second Count* from *Attention* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Fig. 7-13 Position of *To the Right About, Face, Third Count* from *Attention* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING AT THE POSITION OF ATTENTION, to March to the Front at the Common Step:

To the Front, —MARCH! (One Count)

First Count, Part 1 (*Advance Foot*) Figure 7-14

1. Step forward with the left foot a distance of almost 24 inches from heel to heel at the rate of 75 steps a minute.
2. Carry the left foot near and parallel to the ground.
3. Position the center of the left heel over the line through the center of the heel in the rear and the direction of march.
4. Point the left toe out and down.
5. Extend the leg until the knee is straight.
6. Keep the hands in place alongside the thighs.

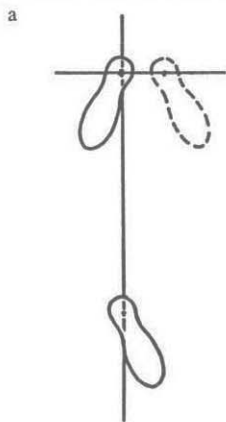
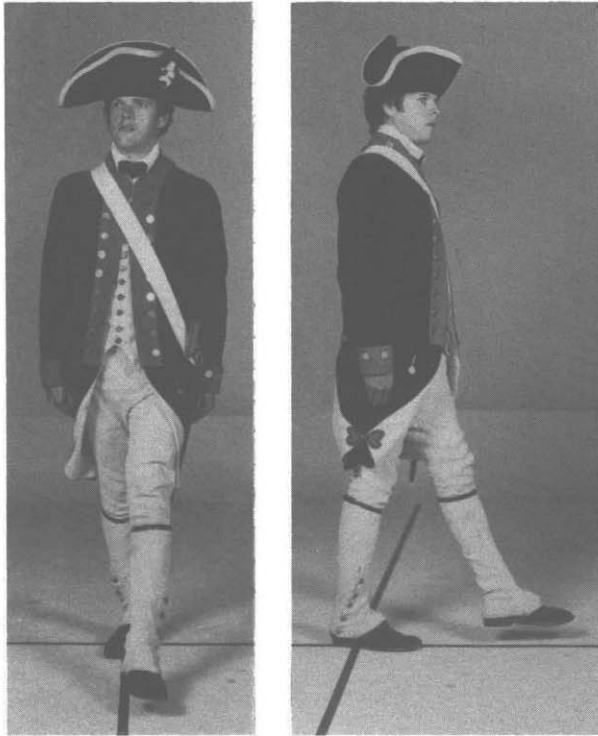


Fig. 7-14 Position of *To the Front* [Common Step], *March, First Count, Part 1* from *Attention* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

First Count, Part 2. (*Plant Foot*) Figure 7-15

1. Advance the left foot forward the distance remaining to complete the 24-inch step.
2. Set the left foot flat on the ground, the:
 - a. Heel on the line through the right heel and the direction of march.
 - b. Toe pointed out.
3. Shift the balance to the left foot.

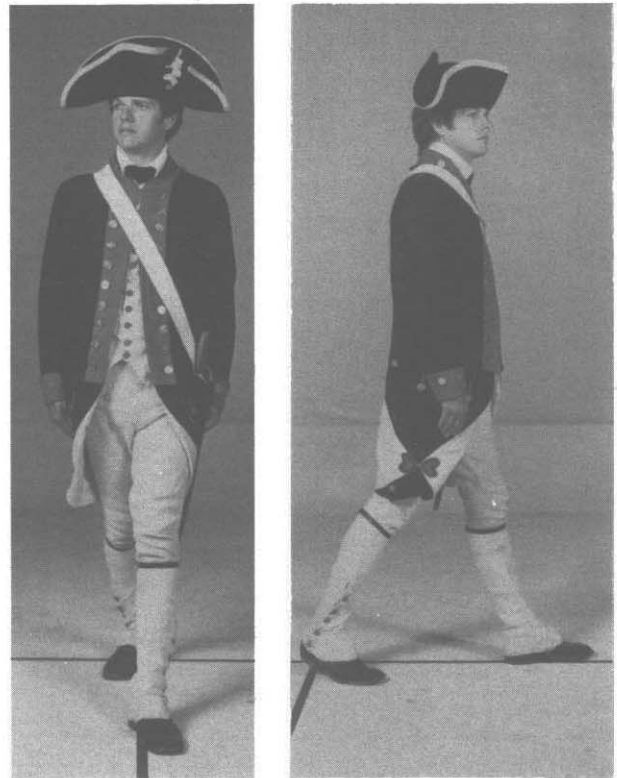


Fig. 7-15 Position of *To the Front* [Common Step], *March, First Count, Part 2* from *Attention* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING IN THE POSITION OF MARCHING TO THE FRONT, to
Halt:

HALT! (Two Counts)

First Count (*Plant Foot*) Figure 7-16

1. Stop short on the foot advanced.

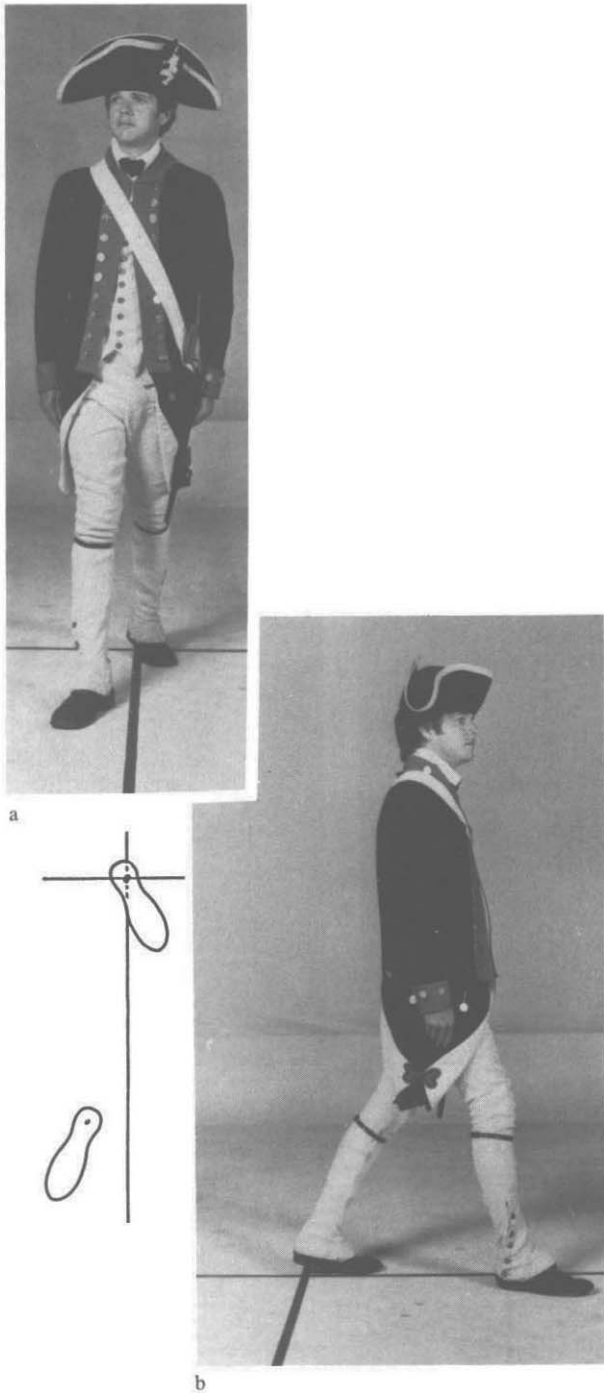


Fig. 7-16 Position of *Halt, First Count* from *To the Front, March* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Second Count (*Bring up Rear Foot*) Figure 7-17

1. Bring up immediately the other foot alongside and two inches from the heel of the planted foot without stamping.
2. Assume the position of the soldier at attention.

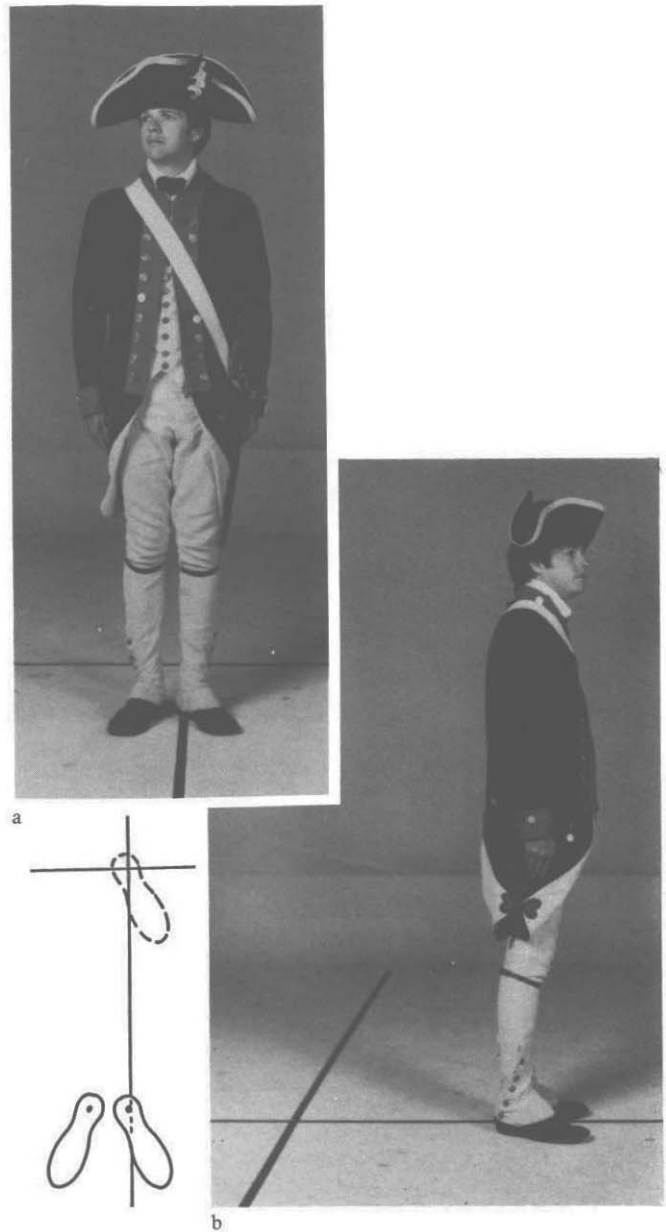


Fig. 7-17 Position of *Halt, Second Count* from *To the Front, March* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING IN THE POSITION OF MARCHING TO THE FRONT, to
March Obliquely to the Right:

Obliquely, —TO THE RIGHT! (Two Counts)

First Count (*Plant Right Foot*) Figure 7-18

1. Carry the right foot forward obliquely to the right.
2. Point the right toe in the direction of the oblique movement.
3. Keep the body and shoulders square to the original line of march.

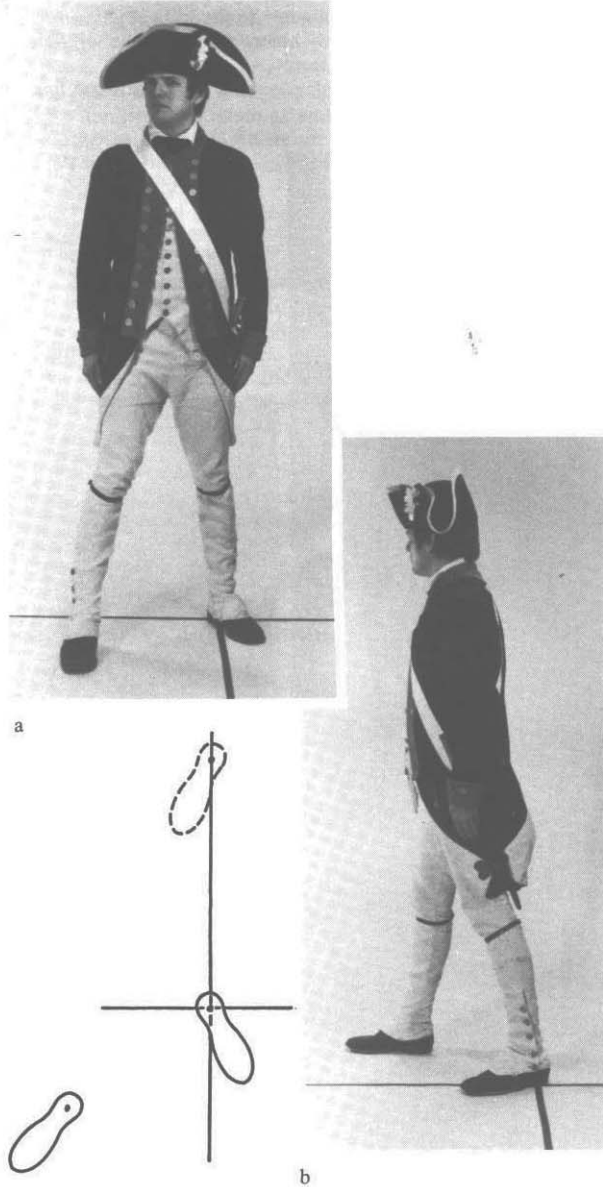


Fig. 7-18 Position of *Obliquely, To the Right, First Count* from *To the Front, March* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Bring up Left Foot*) Figure 7-19

1. Bring up the left foot obliquely to the right.
2. Place the left heel directly before the toe of the right foot.
3. Point the left toe to the front.
4. Keep the body and shoulders square to original line of march.

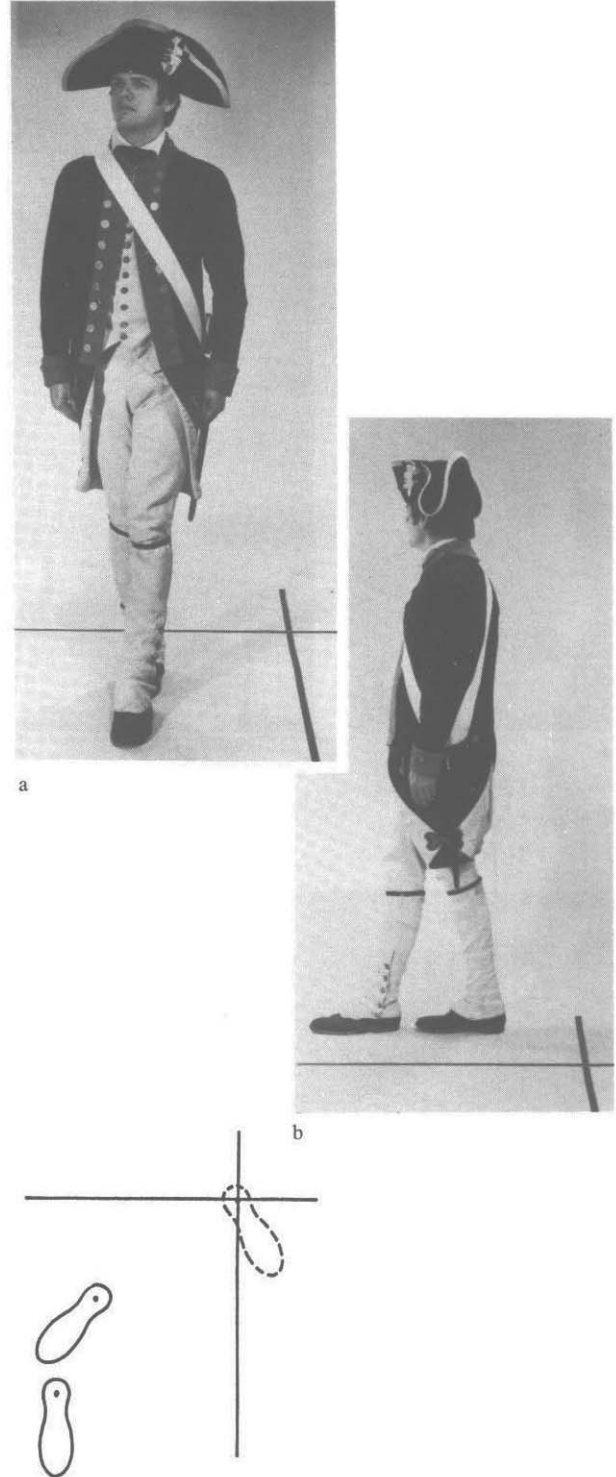


Fig. 7-19 Position of *Obliquely, To the Right, Second Count* from *To the Right, March* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING IN THE POSITION OF MARCHING TO THE FRONT, to
March Obliquely to the Left:

Obliquely, — TO THE LEFT! (Two Counts)

First Count (*Plant Left Foot*) Figure 7-20

1. Carry the left foot forward obliquely to the left.
2. Point the left toe in the direction of the oblique movement.
3. Keep the body and shoulder square to the original line of march.

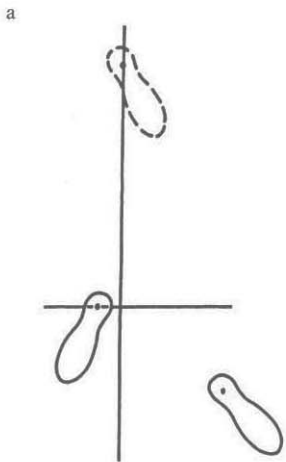
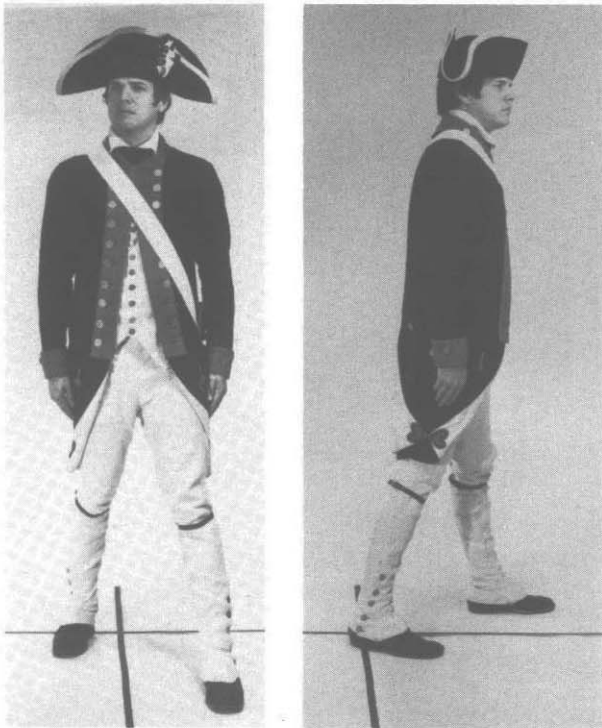


Fig. 7-20 Position of *Obliquely, To the Left, First Count* from *To the Front, March* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Second Count (*Bring up Right Foot*) Figure 7-21

1. Bring up the right foot obliquely to the left.
2. Place the right heel directly before the toe of the left foot.
3. Point the right toe to the front.
4. Keep the body and shoulders square to the original line of march.

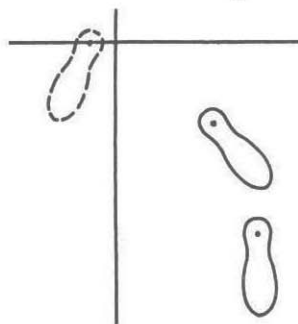
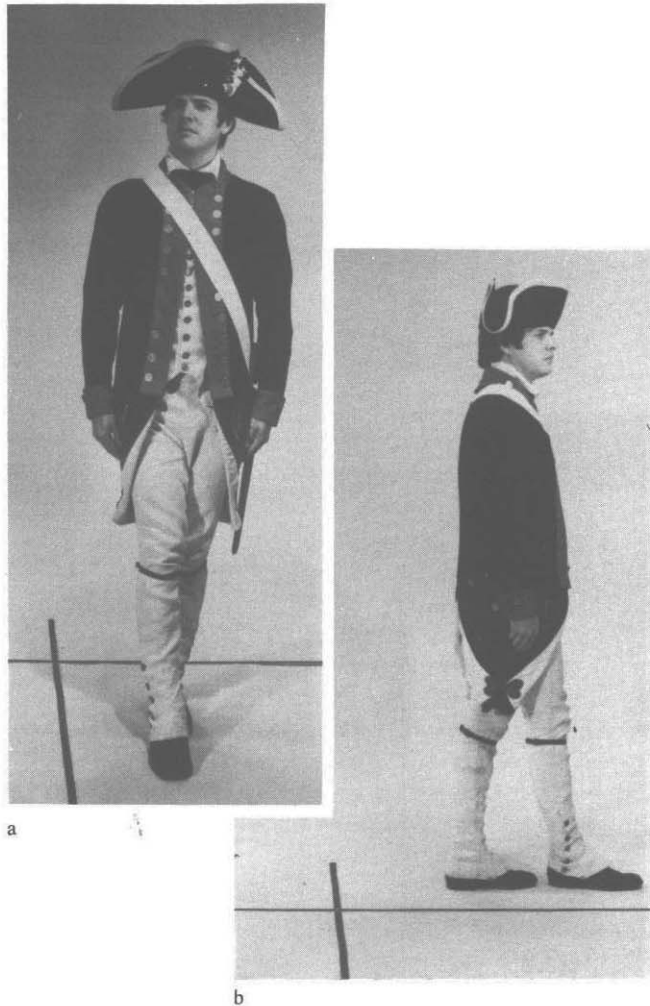
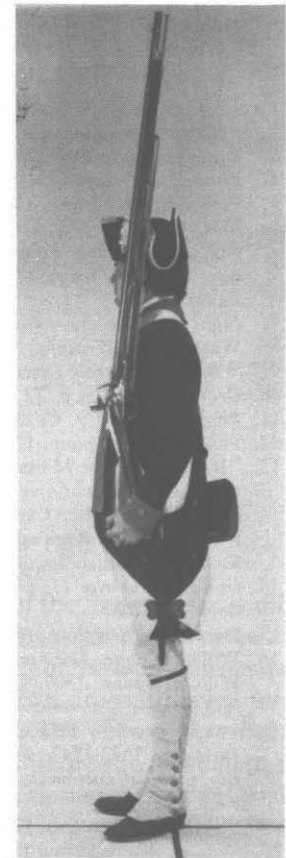


Fig. 7-21 Position of *Obliquely, To the Left, Second Count* from *To the Front, March* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING A SOLDIER UNDER ARMS, to Shoulder Firelock:

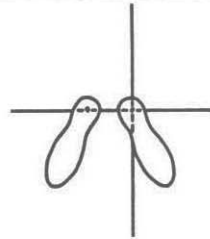
Shoulder —**FIRELOCK!** (One Count) Figure 7-22

1. Stand straight and firm upon the legs
2. Place the heels two inches apart.
3. Turn the toes outward so the included angle between the feet is about 60 degrees.
4. Draw the stomach in slightly without constraint.
5. Project the chest forward slightly.
6. Hold the shoulders square to the front.
7. Turn the head to the right, the left eye over the center of the body.
8. Place the palm of the right hand against the thigh, the:
 - a. Arm hanging down in a natural, unconstrained position.
 - b. Fingers and thumb extended down without stiffness.
9. Carry the piece[51] before the left shoulder in the left hand, the:
 - a. Cock at half-cock.
 - b. Pan closed.
 - c. Barrel:
 - 1). To the front.
 - 2). Vertical when observed from the front.
 - 3). Inclined slightly to the rear.
 - d. Thumb and forefinger above the heel of the butt plate (Figure 7-22c).
 - e. Last three fingers under the butt plate (Figure 7-22d), the nails against the thigh bone.
 - f. Flat of the butt against the hip bone and pressed with the upper palm so it may be kept steady.
 - g. Trigger guard at a height just below the left breast.
 - h. Left elbow drawn back without constraint.
 - i. Lock turned toward the front slightly to clear the piece from the hat.
10. Move neither hand nor foot.
11. Remain silent.
12. Attend carefully the words of command.

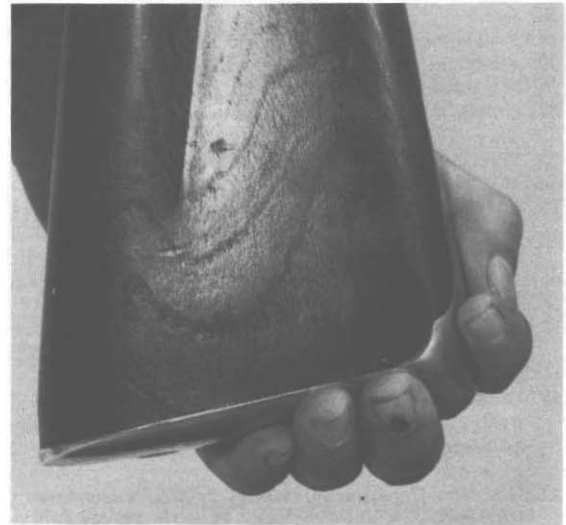


a

b



c



d

Fig. 7-22 Position of a *Soldier at Attention* and *Under Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. The position of the fingers of the left hand viewed at (c) from the left flank and (d) the right flank.

INSTRUCTION OF THE RECRUIT

1. *Regulations, 1779*, Ch. V, p. 10.
2. Faucitt, *Regulations for the Prussian Infantry*, 1759, p. 31.
3. *Ordonnance du Roi, 1766*, p. 5.
4. *Manual Exercise, 1764*, Gaine, 1755, p. 1.
5. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 13.
6. *Ibid.*, Contents, p. 3. A list of "Errors" confesses some confusion of the spelling of the word and offers possible variations to be "feugal, feugalman, fleugal, fugler, feugle, and flankman."
7. *Ibid.*, Part I, p. 13.
8. Washington, *Writings*, Vol. 11, p. 400.
9. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part I, p. 1.
10. *Ordonance, 1775*, p. 7.
11. *Regulations, 1779*, Ch. V, p. 11.
12. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Plate I, Figure 4.
13. "Battalion, in the Military Art," *Cyclopaedia: or A New Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences*, ed. by Abraham Rees, Philadelphia: Robert Carr, ca. 1810, Vol. 4. This article carries the "Rules and Regulations for His Majesty's Forces" from *Russell's Instructions for the Drill*, London: 1803.
14. *Orderly Book No. 17, 1777-1778*, "Baron Steubens Instructions," p. 106.
15. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, pp. 19-20.
16. William Duane, *The American Military Library*, Philadelphia: William Duane, 1809, Vol. 1, p. 36.
17. *Ibid.* Duane also states that the concept of marching in step was invented by Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau (The Old Dessauer, 1677-1747.) Prussian Field Marshal. Cf. *Webster's Biographical Dictionary*. Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam Co., 1963.)
18. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part II, p. 47.
19. *Ibid.*, p. 49. Pickering prefers the term "slow Step" saying, "This, instead of Prussian, is usually called the *slow-step*."
20. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, "Addition to Note 3d, Page 21," Part II, p. 63.
21. *Ibid.*
22. *Regulations, 1779*, Ch. V, p. 13.
23. Cuthbertson, *System for the Management of a Battalion*, 1768, p. 161.
24. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part II.
25. *Ibid.*, Part II, p. 63.
26. *Ibid.*, Part II, p. 22.
27. *Ibid.*, Part II, p. 21.
28. *Ibid.*
29. *Regulations, 1779*, Ch. XXV, p. 152.
30. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part II, p. 22.
31. Washington, *Writings*, Vol. 11, p. 336.
32. *Orderly Book No. 17, 1778*, "Baron Steubens Instructions," p. 99.
33. Washington, *Writings*, Vol. 25, p. 179.
34. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Plate 44.
35. U.S. War Department, *Regulations for the Field Exercises, Manoeuvres, and Conduct of the Infantry of the United States*, Philadelphia: Fry and Kammerer, 1812, Plate I, Figure 3.
36. Isaac Maltby, *The Elements of War*, Boston: T. B. Wait and Co., 1813, Plate III, Figure 3.
37. U.S. War Department, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of Infantry*, New York: T. & W. Mercein, 1815, Plate III, Figure 3.
38. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Adjutant General's Office, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of Infantry*, Philadelphia: Anthony Finley, 1824, Plate III, Figure 3.
39. U.S. War Department, *Infantry Tactics: Explanation of the Plates*, Davis and Force, 1825, Plate III, Figure 2.
40. U.S. Department of War, *Abstract of Infantry Tactics*, Philadelphia: Moss, Brother & Co., 1860, Plate II, Figure 2.
41. Major General [Winfield] Scott, *Infantry Tactics*, Vol. 1, New York: Harper and Brothers, Publishers, 1861, Plate 3, Figure 3.
42. Faucitt, *Regulations for the Prussian Infantry*, 1759, p. 43.
43. *Regulations, 1779*, Ch. V, p. 13.
44. *Ibid.*
45. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part II, pp. 65-66.
46. *Ibid.*, Preface, p. 8.
47. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, Part II, p. 9.
48. *Ibid.*, Part II, p. 11.
49. There is no explanation in the *Regulations* for the emphasis to be placed on any particular syllable of the command *Attention!* The emphasis selected was influenced by modern British military usage whereby the command is reduced to "Shun!" Cf. The War Office, *Drill [All Arms] 1951*, London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Reprinted 1958, p. 1.
50. As the recruit may not be wearing a cartridge box during the drill, the hand is placed on the hip to substitute for the motion of "seizing the cartridge box with the right hand" as prescribed in the *Regulations*, Ch. V, p. 12. A similar motion was used by Baxter in his manual when he describes the sequence for facing to the rear: "Seize the front inner corner of the cartridge box with the right hand, if on, if not, place the back of the right hand against the hip." Cf. D.W.C. Baxter, *Baxter's Volunteer's Manual*, Philadelphia: King & Baird, 1861, p. 13.
51. Thomas Simes, *Military Guide for Young Officers*, 2nd ed., London, J. Millan, 1776, containing a "Military, Historical, and Explanatory Dictionary," q.v. for the definition of "PIECE. A Soldier's firelock is also called his piece."

Chapter VIII

THE MANUAL EXERCISE FOR THE RANKS

The manual exercise was a formal drill sequence performed by the infantry to demonstrate and develop their proficiency in the rudiments of firing and loading the musket, fixing and charging the bayonet, carrying the weapon to meet various marching and parade requirements, and rendering honors. When the troops were drawn up for this purpose, the ranks were opened to allow sufficient room for the rear rank to perform the manual. Prior to the exercise the commander gave the admonition, "Take care to perform the Manual Exercise!" [1] thereby warning the men of the procedure about to be followed and reminding them that the loading and firing was not to be done with live ammunition. Although the *Regulations* did not make note of any special procedures to be followed at this command, in other armies this was also the signal for the platoon and certain non-commissioned officers to take positions in the rear and flanks to observe the performance of the men.

The directions for performing the British Manual Exercise in 1791 indicated that the movements of cocking the firelock, pulling the trigger, half-cocking, and closing the pan were to be simulated [2] to avoid damage to the flint and face of the hammer. When the troops were equipped with wooden flints and cartridges, the release of the cock and the manipulation of the cartridge could be accomplished without harming the locks. All of the motions in the manual exercise of the *Regulations* were to be completed as there was no suggestion that they were to be simulated. Both ranks performed the identical movements except at *Charge, Bayonet!* where the rear rank elevated the muzzles to clear the heads of those in the front rank. As the officer and specified non-commissioned officers were observers during the performance of the manual exercise, they did not participate in the movements. The manuals for their weapons are treated separately in Chapters 12, 13, and 14.

The Twenty-seven Commands

The Manual Exercise of the *Regulations* is directed by 27 commands. In this work the movements required to reposition the body or the musket from the end of one position to the next, are subdivided into *counts*, rather than motions. The counts have been subdivided further into *parts* where the movement is complex. As the use of a description of the final position, only, would eliminate a clear explanation of the intermediate steps, each count and its parts have been given sub-titles to summarize the movement. The counts with their part are usually performed at a rate of 60 per minute with a one-second pause between counts. Some of the movements, e.g. priming and shutting the pan, drawing and returning rammers, ramming down the charge, and fixing the bayonet, are to be done as quickly as possible, but not in cadence. The component counts and parts of the commands of the Manual Exercise are:

I	<i>Poise, Firelock!</i>		
	First Count	<i>Turn Piece</i>	Figure 8-1
	Second Count	<i>Raise Piece</i>	Figure 8-2
II	<i>Cock, Firelock!</i>		
	First Count		
	Part 1	<i>Turn Piece</i>	Figure 8-3
	Part 2	<i>Thumb Cock</i>	Figure 8-4
	Second Count		
	Part 1	<i>Full Cock</i>	Figure 8-5
	Part 2	<i>Return Thumb</i>	Figure 8-6
III	<i>Take, Aim!</i>		
	First Count	<i>Take Aim</i>	Figure 8-7
IV	<i>Fire!</i>		
	First Count		
	Part 1	<i>Pull Trigger</i>	Figure 8-8
	Part 2	<i>Assume Priming Position</i>	Figure 8-9
	Part 3	<i>Grasp Cock</i>	Figure 8-10
V	<i>Half-cock, Firelock!</i>		
	First Count	<i>Half-cock</i>	Figure 8-11
VI	<i>Handle, Cartridge!</i>		
	First Count		
	Part 1	<i>Strike Box</i>	Figure 8-12
	Part 2	<i>Grasp Cartridge</i>	Figure 8-13
	Part 3	<i>Bite Cartridge</i>	Figure 8-14
	Part 4	<i>Tear Cartridge</i>	Figure 8-15

VII	<i>Prime!</i>			Part 4	<i>Turn Bayonet</i>	Figure 8-65	
	First Count			Part 5	<i>Seat Bayonet</i>	Figure 8-66	
	Part 1	<i>Meet Pan</i>	Figure 8-16	Part 6	<i>Press to Shoulder</i>	Figure 8-67	
	Part 2	<i>Fill Pan</i>	Figure 8-17	XXI	<i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i>		
	Part 3	<i>Handle Hammer</i>	Figure 8-18		First Count	<i>Raise Piece</i>	Figure 8-68
VIII	<i>Shut, Pan!</i>				Second Count	<i>Grasp Butt</i>	Figure 8-69
	First Count	<i>Close Pan</i>	Figure 8-19		Third Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 8-70
	Second Count	<i>Cast About</i>	Figure 8-20	XXII	<i>Present, Arms!</i>		
IX	<i>Charge with Cartridge</i>				First Count	<i>Turn Piece</i>	Figure 8-71
	First Count	<i>Load</i>	Figure 8-21		Second Count	<i>Poise Piece</i>	Figure 8-72
	Second Count	<i>Grasp Rammer</i>	Figure 8-22		Third Count	<i>Present Piece</i>	Figure 8-73
X	<i>Draw, Rammer!</i>			XXIII	<i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i>		
	First Count				First Count	<i>Shoulder Piece</i>	Figure 8-74
	Part 1	<i>Half-draw Rammer</i>	Figure 8-23		Second Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 8-75
	Part 2	<i>Catch Rammer</i>	Figure 8-24	XXIV	<i>Charge, Bayonet!</i>		
	Second Count				First Count	<i>Support Cock</i>	Figure 8-76
	Part 1	<i>Clear Rammer</i>	Figure 8-25		Second Count	<i>Charge Piece</i>	
	Part 2	<i>Turn Rammer</i>	Figure 8-26			<i>As Front Rank</i>	Figure 8-77
	Part 3	<i>Insert Rammer</i>	Figure 8-27			<i>As Rear Rank</i>	Figure 8-78
	Part 4	<i>Start Cartridge</i>	Figure 8-28	XXV	<i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i>		
XI	<i>Ram Down, Cartridge!</i>				First Count	<i>Shoulder Piece</i>	Figure 8-79
	First Count				Second Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 8-80
	Part 1	<i>Regrasp Rammer</i>	Figure 8-29	XXVI	<i>Advance, Arms!</i>		
	Part 2	<i>Ram Down</i>	Figure 8-30		First Count	<i>Turn Piece</i>	Figure 8-81
	Part 3	<i>Half-draw Rammer</i>	Figure 8-31		Second Count	<i>Poise Piece</i>	Figure 8-82
	Part 4	<i>Catch Rammer</i>	Figure 8-32		Third Count	<i>Carry to Right Side</i>	Figure 8-83
	Part 5	<i>Clear Rammer</i>	Figure 8-33		Fourth Count	<i>Drop Left Hand</i>	Figure 8-84
	Part 6	<i>Turn Rammer</i>	Figure 8-34	XXVII	<i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i>		
	Part 7	<i>Insert Rammer</i>	Figure 8-35		First Count		
	Part 8	<i>Handle Rammer Butt</i>	Figure 8-36		Part 1	<i>Grasp Swell</i>	Figure 8-85
XII	<i>Return, Rammer!</i>				Part 2	<i>Grasp Small</i>	Figure 8-86
	First Count				Second Count	<i>Poise Piece</i>	Figure 8-87
	Part 1	<i>Seat Rammer</i>	Figure 8-37		Third Count	<i>Shoulder Piece</i>	Figure 8-88
	Part 2	<i>Raise Piece</i>	Figure 8-38		Fourth Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 8-89
XIII	<i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i>						
	First Count	<i>Grasp Butt</i>	Figure 8-39				
	Second Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 8-40				
XIV	<i>Order, Firelock!</i>						
	First Count	<i>Grasp Piece</i>	Figure 8-41				
	Second Count						
	Part 1	<i>Lower Piece</i>	Figure 8-42				
	Part 2	<i>Ground Butt</i>	Figure 8-43				
XV	<i>Ground, Firelock!</i>						
	First Count						
	Part 1	<i>Step Forward</i>	Figure 8-44				
	Part 2	<i>Kneel</i>	Figure 8-45				
	Second Count	<i>Stand Up</i>	Figure 8-46				
XVI	<i>Take Up, Firelock!</i>						
	First Count						
	Part 1	<i>Step Forward</i>	Figure 8-47				
	Part 2	<i>Kneel</i>	Figure 8-48				
	Second Count						
	Part 1	<i>Stand Up</i>	Figure 8-49				
	Part 2	<i>Turn Piece</i>	Figure 8-50				
XVII	<i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i>						
	First Count						
	Part 1	<i>Raise Piece</i>	Figure 8-51				
	Part 2	<i>Toss Piece</i>	Figure 8-52				
	Second Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 8-53				
XVIII	<i>Secure, Firelock!</i>						
	First Count	<i>Support Cock</i>	Figure 8-54				
	Second Count	<i>Grasp Swell</i>	Figure 8-55				
	Third Count	<i>Lower Muzzle</i>	Figure 8-56				
XIX	<i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i>						
	First Count	<i>Raise Piece</i>	Figure 8-57				
	Second Count	<i>Grasp Butt</i>	Figure 8-58				
	Third Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 8-59				
XX	<i>Fix, Bayonet!</i>						
	First Count	<i>Support Cock</i>	Figure 8-60				
	Second Count	<i>Grasp Swell</i>	Figure 8-61				
	Third Count						
	Part 1	<i>Grasp Bayonet</i>	Figure 8-62				
	Part 2	<i>Draw Bayonet</i>	Figure 8-63				
	Part 3	<i>Engage Notch</i>	Figure 8-64				

The detailed descriptions and illustrations of the 27 commands of the Manual Exercise for the ranks follow.

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Poise Firelock:

1. *Poise* — *FIRELOCK!* (Two Counts)

First Count (*Turn Piece*) Figure 8-1

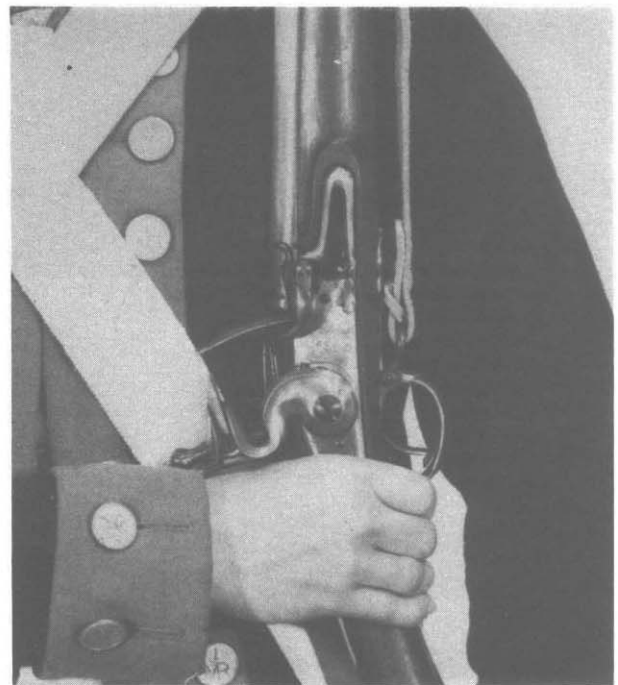
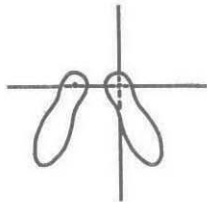
1. Turn the piece briskly to the right with the left hand, the:
 - a. Lock to the front.
 - b. Cock touching the left breast.
 - c. Left elbow turned out slightly.
2. At the same time, grasp the small of the stock just below the cock with the right hand (Figure 8-1c)
 - a. Fingers joined and across the lock plate.
 - b. Forefinger under and against the guard.
 - c. Cock resting on the top of the hand.
 - d. Thumb on the sideplate and against the body.
3. Pull the butt to the left slightly with the left hand to keep the barrel vertical as observed from the front.



a



b



c

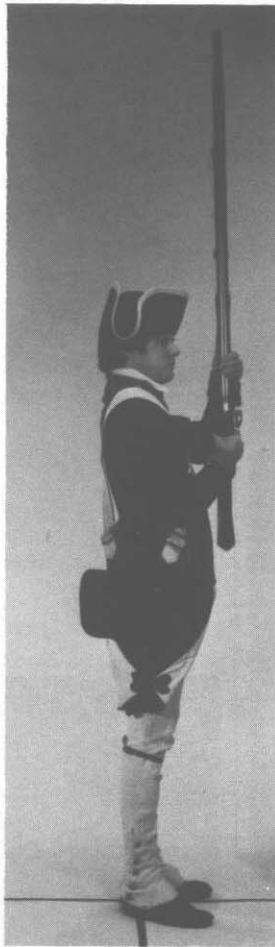
Fig. 8-1 Position of *Poise*, *Firelock*, *First Count* from *Shoulder*, *Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. The position of the right hand under the cock viewed at (c) from the front.

Second Count (*Raise Piece*) Figure 8-2

1. Raise the piece with the right hand, the:
 - a. Lock to the front.
 - b. Barrel vertical and before the center of the body.
2. At the same time, let go the butt and grasp the stock and sling above the lock with the left hand, (Figure 8-2c), the:
 - a. Little finger resting on the top of the bend of the feather spring.
 - b. Forefinger at the height of the eyes.
 - c. Thumb upright along the stock,
3. Hold the elbows down without constraint.



a



b



c

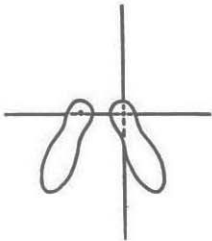


Fig. 8-2 Position of *Poise, Firelock, Second Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the little finger of the left hand bearing on the feather spring and the right hand at the small of the stock viewed at (c) from the right flank.

BEING AT POISED FIRELOCK, To Cock Firelock:

II. *Cock* — *FIRELOCK!* (Two Counts)

First Count, Part 1 (*Turn Piece*) Figure 8-3

1. Turn the piece to the right with both hands bringing the barrel to the rear. (Figure 8-3c).
2. Hold the elbows down without constraint.

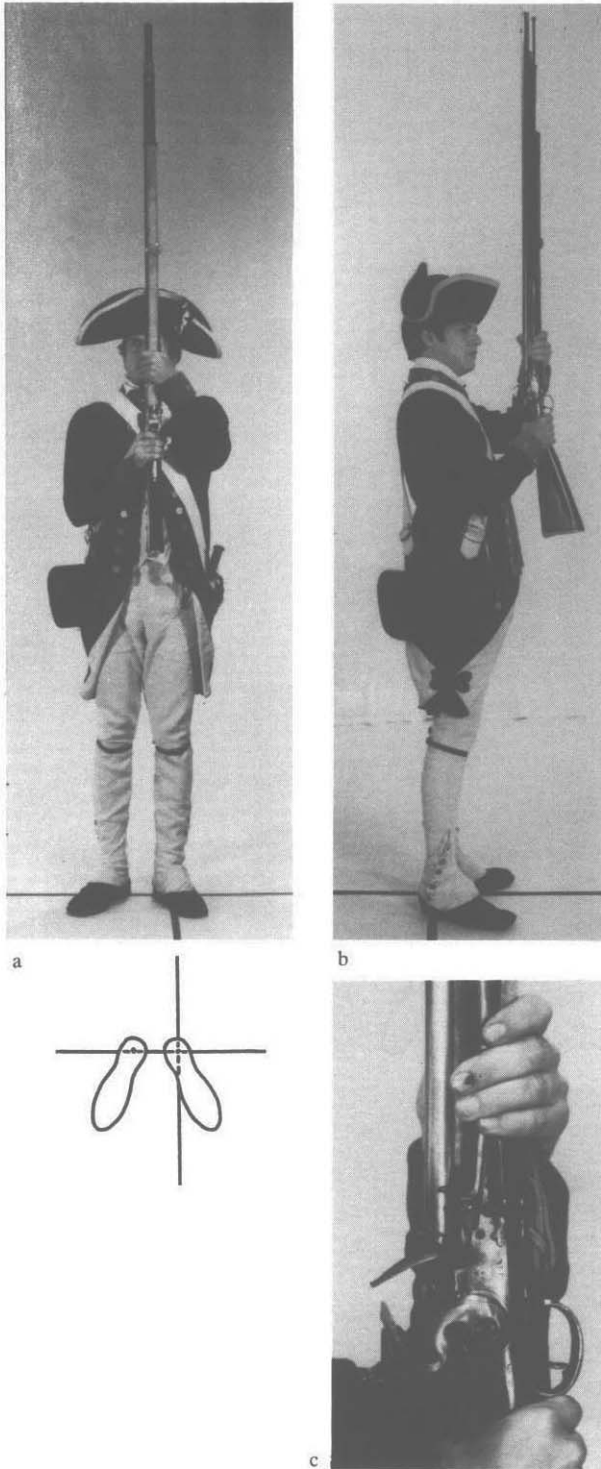


Fig. 8-3 Position of *Cock, Firelock, First Count, Part 1* from *Poise, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the piece with the barrel turned to the rear viewed at (c) from the right flank.

First Count, Part 2 (*Thumb Cock*) Figure 8-4

1. Place the right thumb over the top jaw of the cock and in front of the cock pin. (Figure 8-4c)
2. Place the forefinger under and against the guard and the others joined to the first.
3. Raise the right elbow to the height of the right hand.

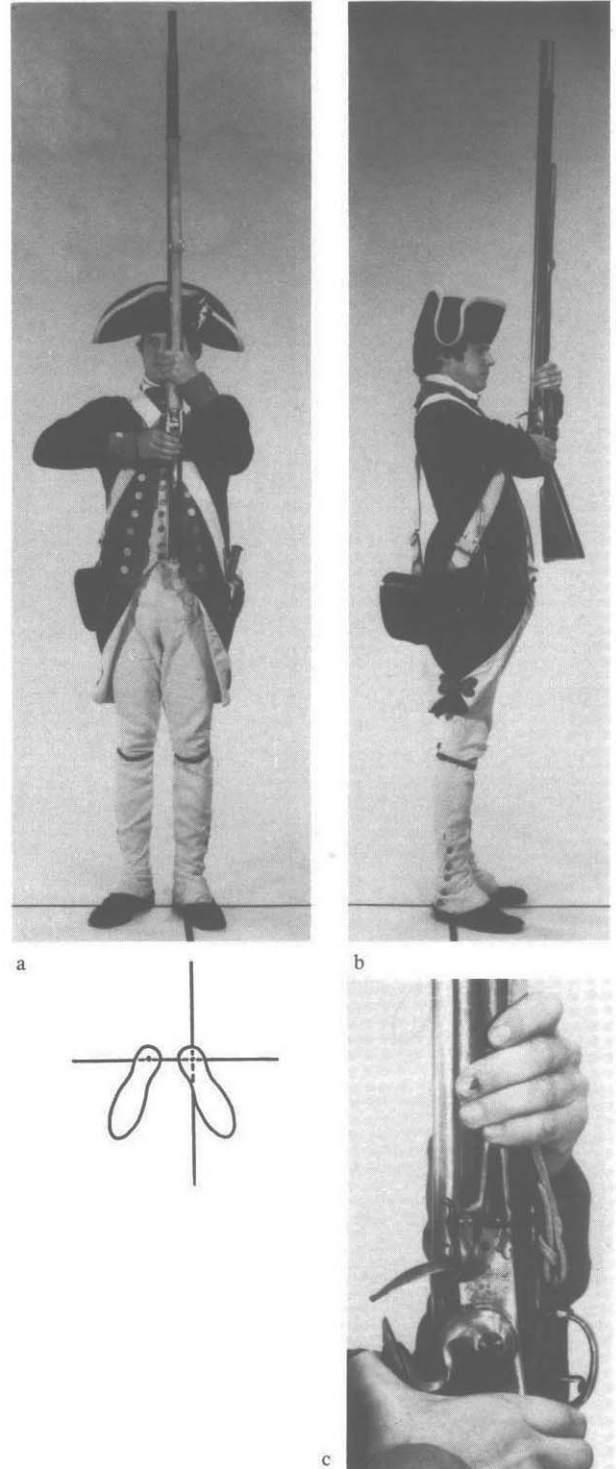


Fig. 8-4 Position of *Cock, Firelock, First Count, Part 2* from *Poise, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the thumb of the right hand on the cock viewed at (c) from the right flank.

Second Count, Part 1 (*Full Cock*) Figure 8-5

1. Lower the right elbow briskly.
2. Force the cock down to the full cock position with the right thumb. (Figure 8-5c)

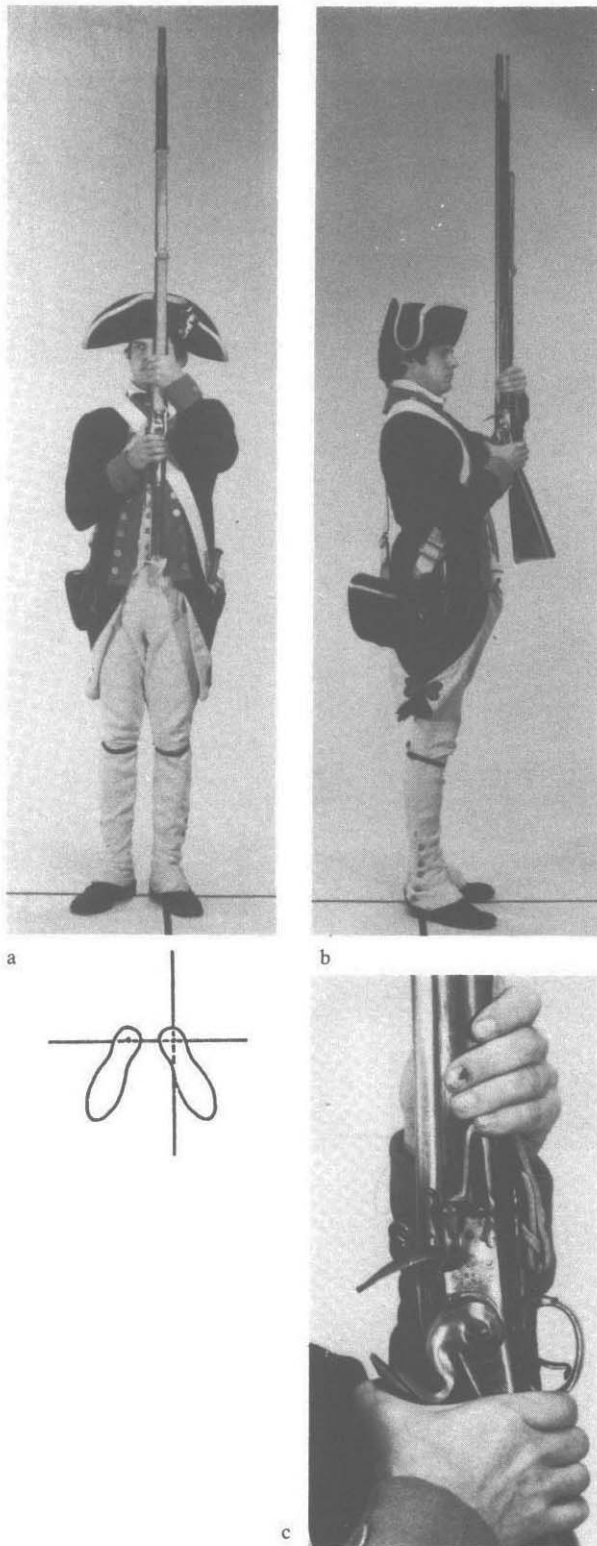


Fig. 8-5 Position of *Cock, Firelock, Second Count, Part 1* from *Poise, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the thumb of the right hand drawing down the cock viewed at (c) from the right flank.

Second Count, Part 2 (*Return Thumb*) Figure 8-6

1. Place the right thumb on the breech pin. (Figure 8-6c)

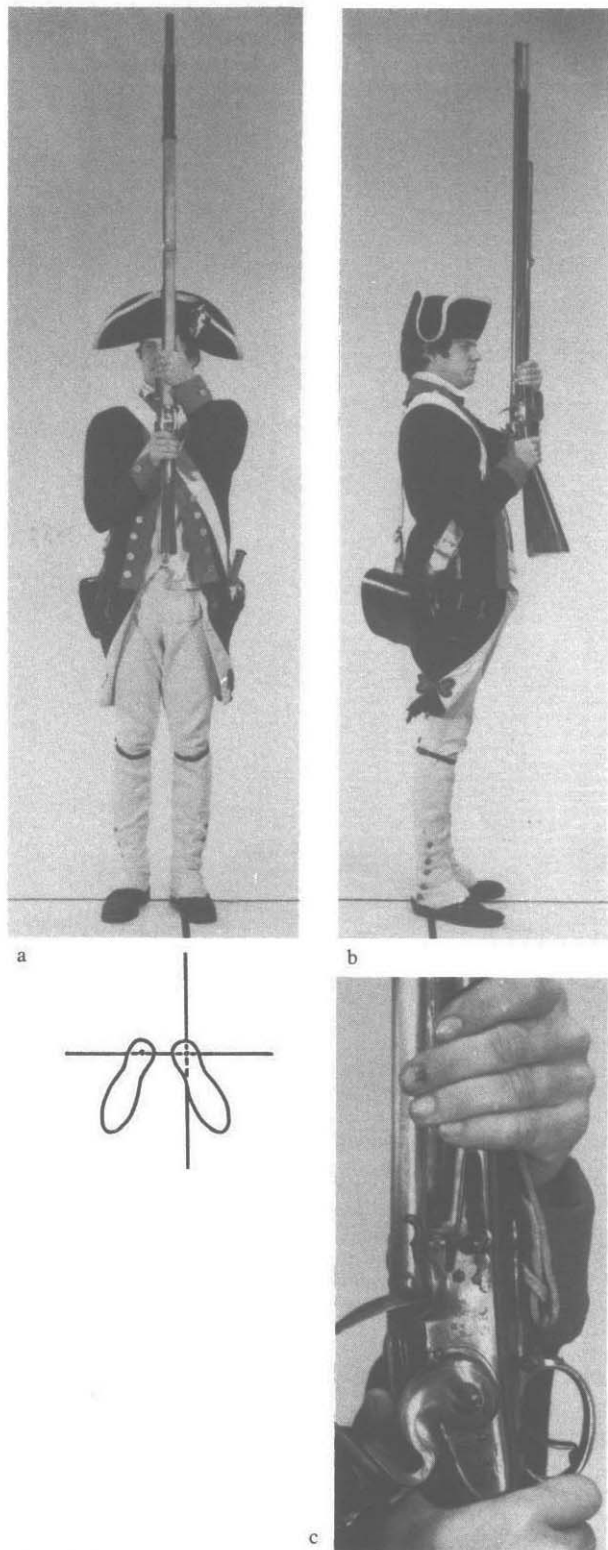


Fig. 8-6 Position of *Cock, Firelock, Second Count, Part 2* from *Poise, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the thumb of the right hand on the breech pin viewed at (c) from the right flank.

BEING AT COCKED FIRELOCK, To Take Aim:

III. *Take* — *AIM!* (One Count)

First Count (*Take Aim*) Figure 8-7

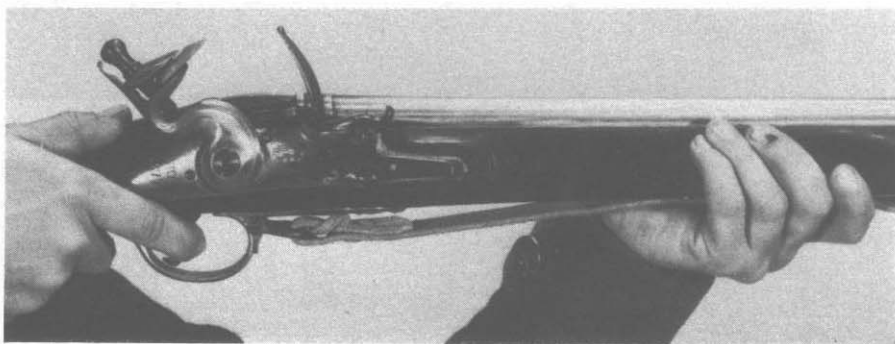
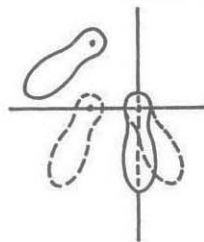
1. Step back about six inches with the right foot.
2. Turn the left foot on the heel and bring the toe to the front.
3. Drop the muzzle of the piece directly to the front.
4. Place the butt-end against the right shoulder.
5. Slide the left hand forward to the swell of the stock, the left thumb pointing forward. (Figure 8-7c)
6. Place the forefinger of the right hand before the trigger. (Figure 8-7d)
7. Keep the right thumb on the breech pin.
8. Lower the elbows without constraint.
9. Lower the muzzle slightly below the horizontal.
10. Lean the right cheek on the butt of the piece.
11. Shut the left eye.
12. Look along the barrel with the right eye from the breech pin to the sight at the object to be fired upon.



a



b



c

d

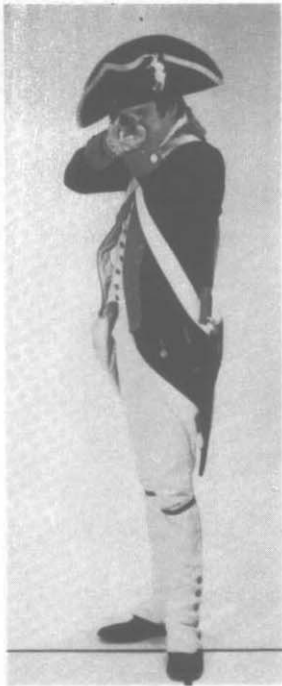
Fig. 8-7 Position of *Take, Aim, First Count* from *Cock, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the left hand at the swell of the stock viewed at (c) and the forefinger of the right hand on the trigger at (d) viewed from the right flank.

BEING AIMED, To Fire:

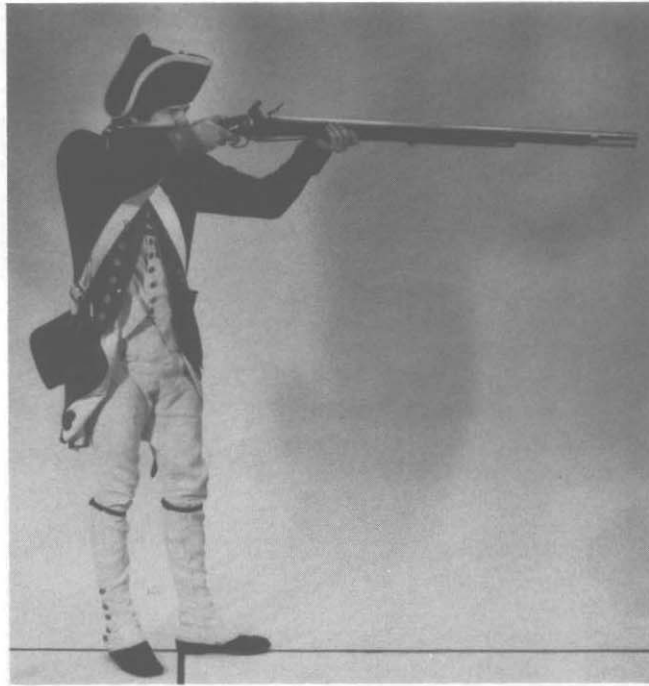
IV. *FIRE!* (One Count)

First Count, Part 1 (*Pull Trigger*) Figure 8-8

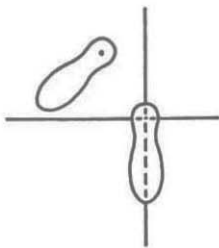
1. Pull the trigger with the forefinger of the right hand (Figure 8-8c), releasing the cock.



a



b

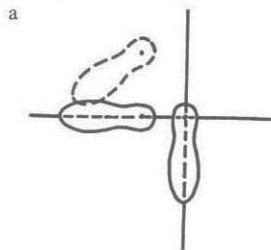


c

Fig. 8-8 Position of *Fire, First Count, Part 1* from *Take, Aim* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of forefinger of the right hand viewed at (c) from the right flank.

First Count, Part 2 (*Assume Priming Position*) Figure 8-9

1. Keep the left foot in place with the toe pointed to the front.
2. Bring the right foot forward [3], the:
 - a. Center of the heel alongside the center of the heel of the left foot.
 - b. Heels two inches apart.
 - c. Length of the foot at right angles to the length of the left.
 - d. Toe pointed to the right.
3. At the same time, bring the piece down quickly to the right side with both hands, the:
 - a. Forefinger behind the guard.
 - b. Butt under the right armpit and right forearm.
 - c. Small of the stock pressed against the body.
 - d. Lock opposite the right breast.
 - e. Guard turned out a little.
 - f. Left elbow supported against the side and carried to the right as far as the center of the body.
 - g. Left forearm nearly perpendicular.
 - h. Piece resting of the palm of the left hand.
 - i. Left hand halfway between the swell and the feather spring.
 - j. Left thumb extended forward along the stock and the other fingers closed.
 - k. Barrel pointed straight to the front.
 - l. Muzzle raised at the height to clear the hat of the man of the front rank.
 - m. Piece held firm and steady.
 - n. Shoulders on a line approximately 45 degrees to the front.



b
Fig. 8-9 Position of Fire, First Count, Part 2 from Take Aim viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

First Count, Part 3 (*Grasp Cock*) Figure 8-10

- I. Grasp the cock with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand (Figure 8-10c), the:
 - a. Thumb pointed forward and placed on top of the upper jaw and resting on the left side of the head of the cock pin.
 - b. Forefinger bent with the middle joint resting on the right side of the head of the cock pin.
 - c. Back of the hand up.
 - d. Remaining fingers closed but not clenched hard.
 - e. Right elbow raised just above the butt.
 - f. Wrist straight.

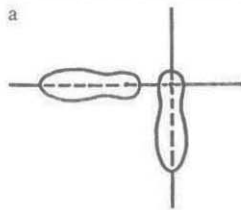


Fig. 8-10 Position of *Fire, First Count, Part 3* from *Take, Aim* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the cock viewed at (c) from the left flank.

BEING AT THE PRIMING POSITION AFTER FIRING, To Half-cock Firelock:

V. *Half-cock* — *FIRELOCK!* (One Count)

First Count (*Half-cock*) Figure 8-11

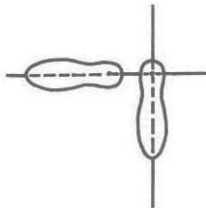
1. Draw the right arm to the rear (Figure 8-11c), the:
 - a. Cock pulled back to the half-cock position, taking care not to full-cock.
 - b. Left hand resisting the tension of the main spring of the lock and keeping the piece in position.
 - c. Right elbow lowered to the butt of the piece.



a



b



c

Fig. 8-11 Position of *Half-Cock, Firelock, First Count* from *Fire* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the cock viewed at (c) from the right flank.

BEING AT HALF-COCKED FIRELOCK, To Handle Cartridge:
VI. *Handle* — *CARTRIDGE!* (One Count to be performed as quickly as possible)

First Count, Part 1 (*Strike Box*) Figure 8-12

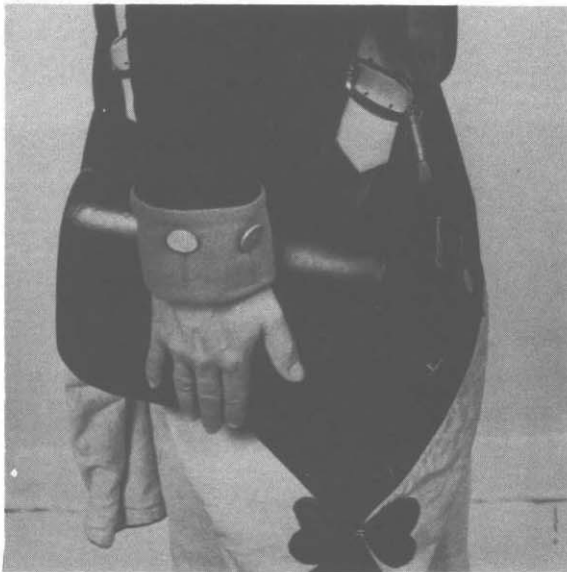
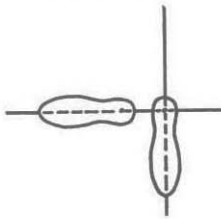
1. Carry the right hand down briskly between the butt and the body. [4]
2. Strike the cover of the cartridge box with the palm (Figure 8-12c).
3. Disengage the cover latch.



a



b



c

Fig. 8-12 Position of *Handle, Cartridge, First Count, Part 1* from *Half-Cock, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the cover of the cartridge box viewed at (c) from the rear.

First Count, Part 2 (*Grasp Cartridge*) Figure 8-13

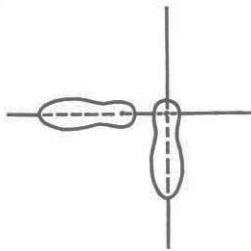
1. Lift the outer and inner flaps of the cartridge box with the right hand.
2. Grasp the top of the cartridge with the right hand between the thumb and first two fingers. [5] (Figure 8-13c)



a



b



c

Fig. 8-13 Position of *Handle, Cartridge, First Count, Part 2* from *Half-Cock, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand grasping a cartridge viewed at (c) from the rear.

First Count, Part 3 (*Bite Cartridge*) Figure 8-14

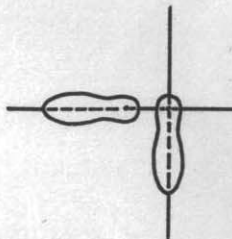
1. Withdraw the cartridge from the pouch.
2. Raise the cartridge briskly to the mouth between the butt and the body. [6]
3. Place the top-end of the cartridge between the teeth (Figure 8-14c), the:
 - a. Right elbow raised up. [7]
 - b. Upper right arm nearly square with the side of the body.
 - c. Knuckles up.
 - d. Cartridge horizontal.
4. Bite the end of the cartridge far enough down the twist to feel the powder in the mouth. [8]



a



b



c

Fig. 8-14 Position of *Handle, Cartridge, First Count, Part 3* from *Half-Cock, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand holding the cartridge between the teeth viewed at (c) from the front.

First Count, Part 4 (*Tear Cartridge*) Figure 8-15

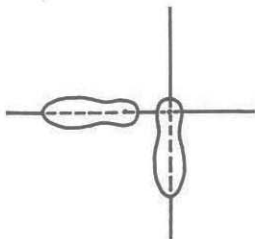
1. Drop the right elbow to the flat of the butt tearing the paper of the cartridge to the powder.
2. Cover the open end of the cartridge with the thumb.
3. Hold the cartridge upright between the thumb and the first two fingers, the palm of the hand turned toward the body.
4. Lower the right hand to the height of the chin. (Figure 8-15c)
5. Spit out the twist of the cartridge.



a



b



c



Fig. 8-15 Position of *Handle, Cartridge, First Count, Part 4* from *Half-Cock, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand holding the cartridge upright at the height of the chin viewed at (c) from the front.

BEING AT HANDLED CARTRIDGE, To Prime:

VII. *PRIME!* (One Count to be done as quickly as possible)

First Count Part 1 (*Meet Pan*) Figure 8-16

1. Drop the head and look at the pan. [9]
2. Bring the right hand down to the pan (Figure 8-16c), the:
 - a. First joint of the forefinger touching the underside of the pan. [10]
 - b. Cartridge held vertically with the top pressed together between the thumb and the forefinger.

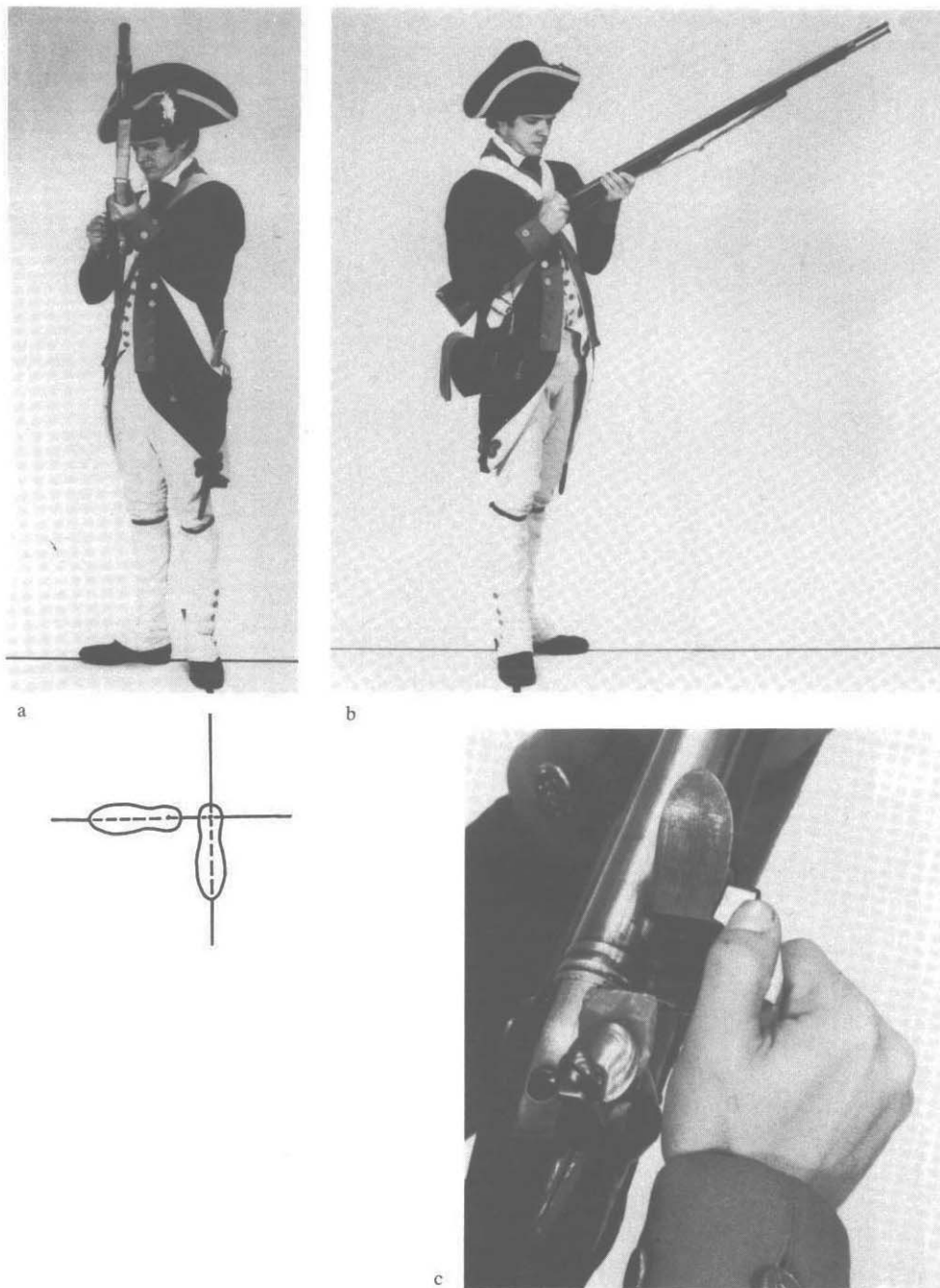


Fig. 8-16 Position of *Prime, First Count, Part 1* from *Handle, Cartridge* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand holding the cartridge alongside the pan viewed at (c) from above.

First Count, Part 2 (*Fill Pan*) Figure 8-17

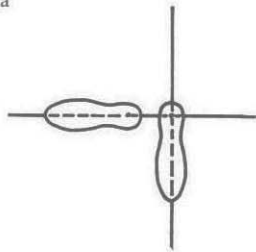
1. Turn the right hand up, the:
 - a. Cartridge horizontal.
 - b. Thumb pulled back to expose the powder.
2. Shake sufficient powder out of the cartridge to just fill the pan. (Figure 8-17c)
3. Close the end of the cartridge between the thumb and the forefinger.



a



b



c

Fig. 8-17 Position of *Prime*. *First Count, Part 2* from *Handle, Cartridge* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand shaking powder into the pan viewed at (c) from above.

First Count, Part 3, (*Handle Hammer*) Figure 8-18

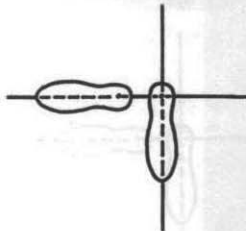
1. Raise the head and look to the fogleman on the right. [11]
2. Place the last three fingers of the right hand before the back of the hammer (Figure 8-18c), the:
 - a. Elbow up.
 - b. Cartridge vertical between the thumb and the forefinger.
 - c. Wrist arched slightly to avoid the edge of the flint.



a



b



c

Fig. 8-18 Position of Prime, First Count, Part 3 from Handle, Cartridge viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the fingers of the right hand before the back of the hammer viewed at (c) from the rear.

BEING PRIMED, To Shut Pan:

VIII. Shut — PAN! (Two Counts)

First Count (Close Pan) Figure 8-19

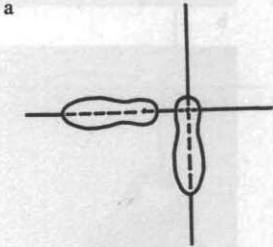
1. Draw the right arm back, closing the pan briskly with the last three fingers (Figure 8-19c), the:
 - a. Right elbow brought down to the butt of the piece.
 - b. Left hand resisting the tension of the feather spring.
2. Hold the cartridge vertically in the right hand, the end pressed between the thumb and the forefinger.



a



b



c

Fig. 8-19 Position of Shut, Pan, First Count from Prime viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand closing the pan viewed at (c) from the rear.

Second Count (*Cast About*) [12] Figure 8-20

1. Lower the butt quickly by a push with the fingers of the right hand against the back of the hammer.
2. At the same time, lower the piece with the left hand, the:
 - a. Lock to the front.
 - b. Left arm extended straight down.
 - c. Left hand before and against the left thigh.
 - d. Piece held between the thumb and fingers of the left hand at the swell.
 - e. Barrel on a line inclined approximately 45 degrees to the front.
3. Slip the piece down through the left hand, the:
 - a. Muzzle at the height of the chin. [13]
 - b. Left hand grasping the piece at the tail pipe.
4. Place the palm of the right hand and the cartridge at the height of and before the muzzle (Figure 8-20c), the:
 - a. Muzzle before and at about five inches [14] from the center of the body.
 - b. Thumb and forefinger holding the cartridge closed.
 - c. Right elbow down. [15]

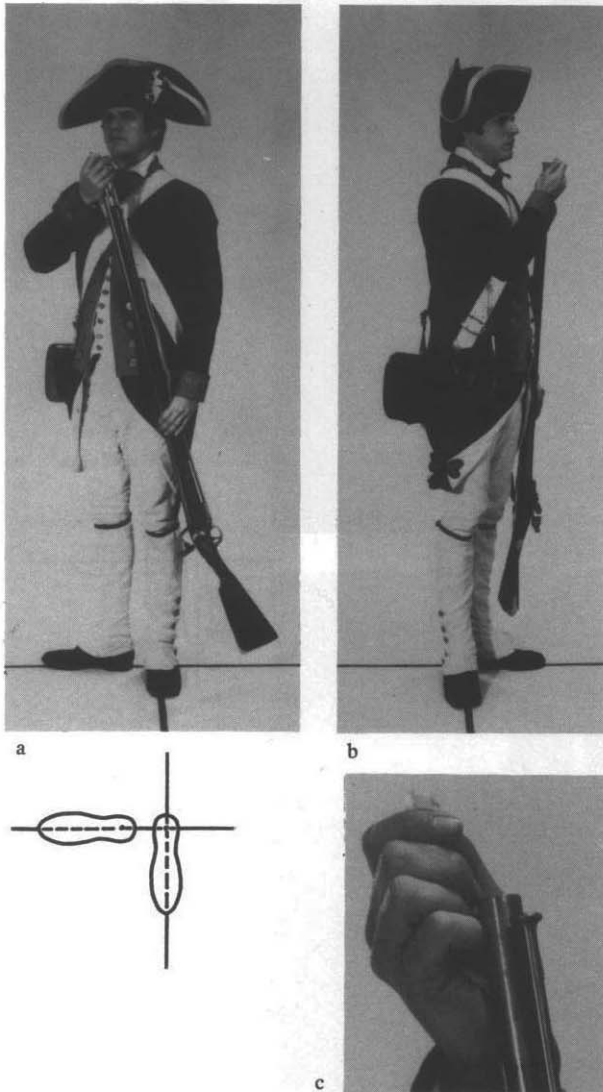


Fig. 8-20 Position of *Shut, Pan, Second Count* from *Prime* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand holding the cartridge before the muzzle viewed at (c) from the left flank.

BEING AT CAST ABOUT, To Charge With Cartridge:

IX. *Charge* with *CARTRIDGE!* (Two Counts to be done as quickly as possible)

First Count (*Load*) Figure 8-21

1. Look at the muzzle.
2. Turn the hand up, the:
 - a. Palm to the front. [16]
 - b. Open end of the cartridge inserted downwards into the muzzle.
3. Raise the right elbow as high as the wrist. [17]
4. Shake the powder out of the cartridge and into the barrel.
5. Push the cartridge paper and ball into the barrel with the forefinger (Figure 8-21c)

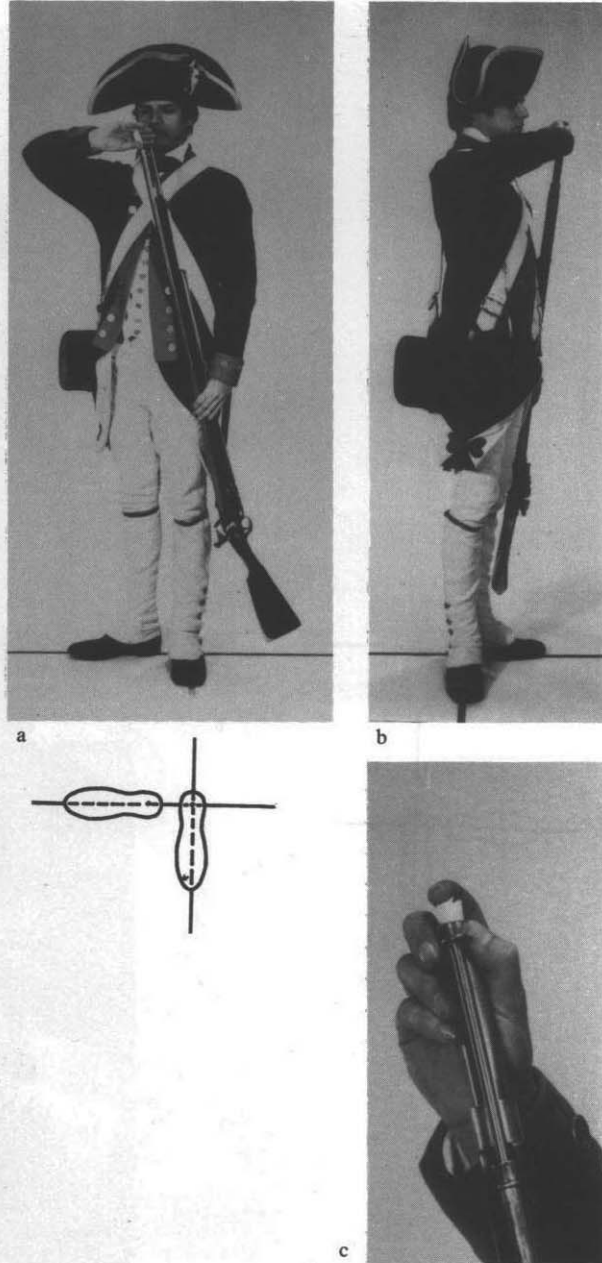


Fig. 8-21 Position of *Charge with Cartridge, First Count* from *Shut, Pan* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the forefinger of the right hand pushing the paper and ball into the barrel viewed at (c) from the rear.

Second Count (*Grasp Rammer*) Figure 8-22

1. Drop the right elbow.
2. Turn the piece about the axis of the barrel with the left hand, the rammer directed toward the right.
3. Grasp the butt of the rammer briskly with the right hand between the thumb and the forefinger (Figure 8-22c), the:
 - a. Thumb pointed up and lying along the rammer under the head of the butt.
 - b. Forefinger bent and the knuckle of the second joint under the head of the butt.
 - c. Remaining fingers closed but not clenched.
4. Look at the right hand.

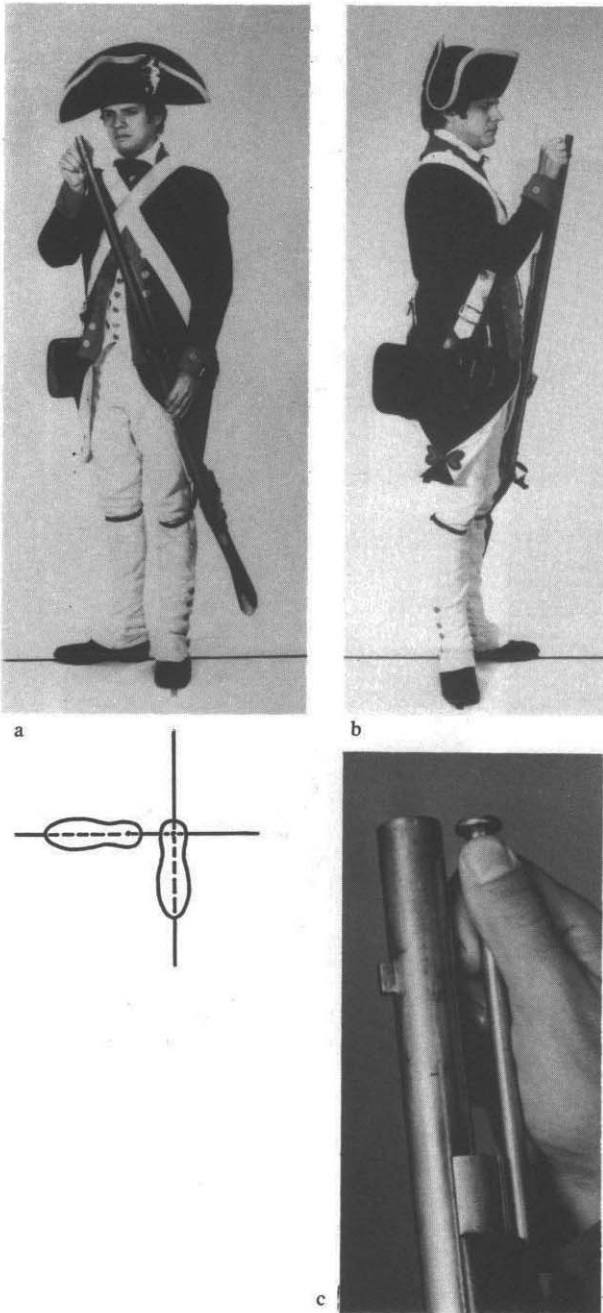


Fig. 8-22 Position of *Charge with Cartridge, Second Count* from *Shut, Pan* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the left flank.

BEING CHARGED WITH CARTRIDGE, To Draw Rammer:

X. *Draw* — *RAMMER!* (Two Counts to be done as quickly as possible)

First Count, Part 1 (*Half-draw Rammer*) Figure 8-23

1. Extend the right hand smartly withdrawing the rammer half-out of the pipes.
2. Watch the right hand (Figure 8-23c)

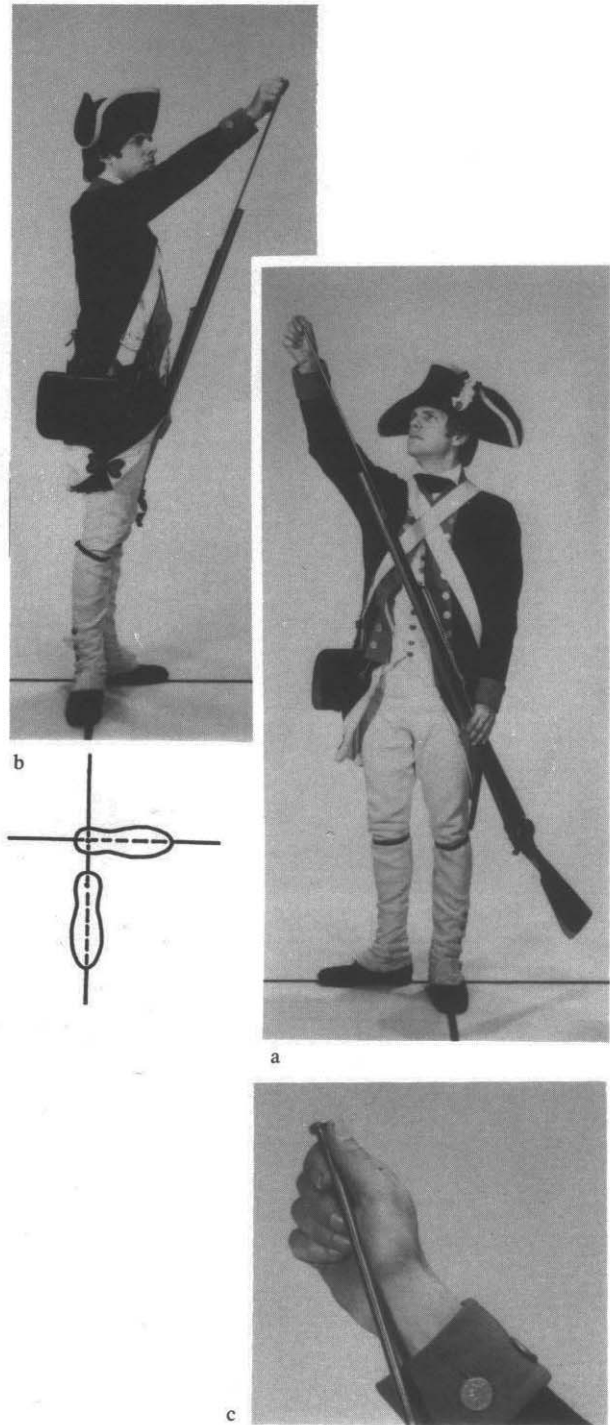


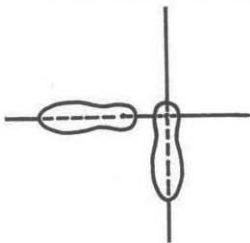
Fig. 8-23 Position of *Draw, Rammer, First Count, Part 1* from *Charge with Cartridge* viewed (a) from the front and (b) from the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the front.

First Count, Part 2 (*Catch Rammer*) Figure 8-24

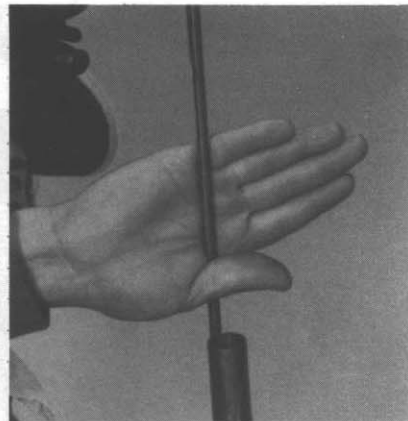
1. Release the rammer.
2. Watch the right hand.
3. Catch the rammer instantly at the middle with the right hand (Figure 8-24c), the:
 - a. Palm to the front.
 - b. Rammer lying in the hollow between the thumb and the forefinger.
 - c. Fingers extended horizontally and joined.
 - d. Back of the thumb near the muzzle.
 - e. Right elbow raised to the level of the wrist [18]



a



b



c

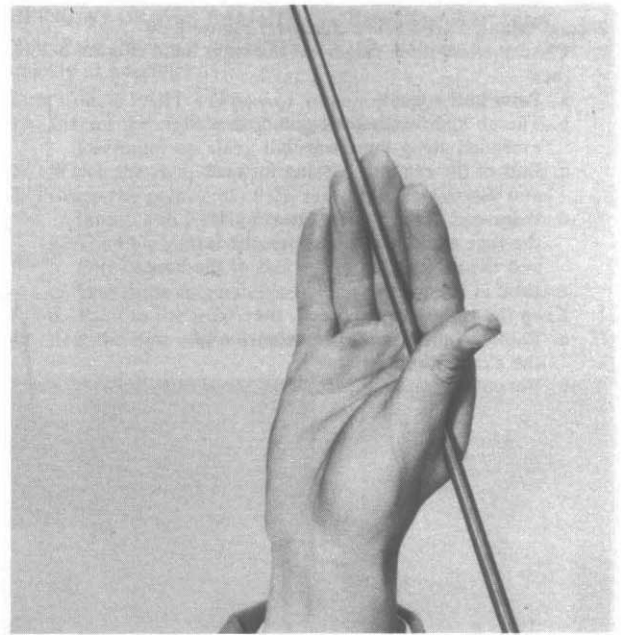
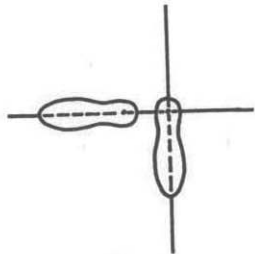
Fig. 8-24 Position of Draw, *Rammer, First Count, Part 2* from *Charge with Cartridge* viewed from (a) the front and (b) from the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the front.

Second Count, Part I (*Clear Rammer*) Figure 8-25

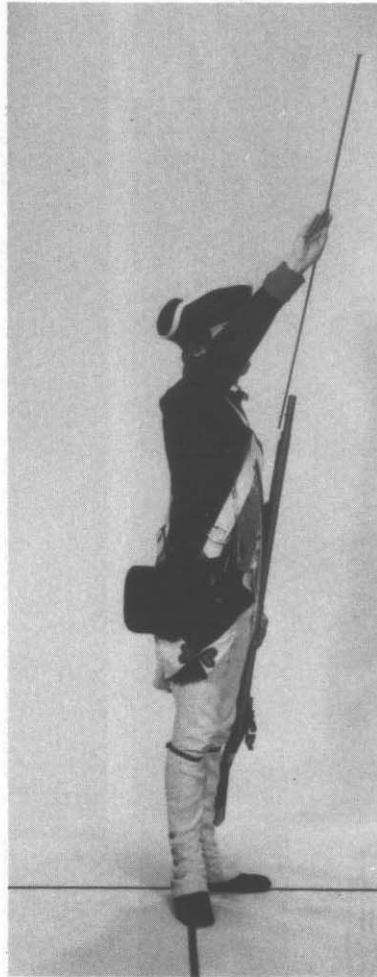
1. Extend the right arm.
2. Watch the right hand.
3. Clear the rammer from the pipes.
4. Hold the rammer along the extension of the axis of the pipes (Figure 8-25c), the:
 - a. Palm to the front.
 - b. Fingers extended, joined and pointing upward.
 - c. Rammer lying between the hollow of the thumb and forefinger and across the tips of the second and third fingers.



a



c



b

Fig. 8-25 Position of Draw, Rammer, Second Count, Part I from Charge with Cartridge viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the front.

Second Count, Part 3 (*Turn Rammer*) Figure 8-26

1. Close the last three fingers of the right hand (Figure 8-26c), the:
 - a. Palm to the front.
 - b. Thumb and forefinger pointed up and extended along the rammer.
 - c. Butt of the rammer passing forward and down.
 - d. Point-end of the rammer passing to the rear and upward between the face and the prolongation of the axis of the bore.
 - e. Look at the muzzle.
2. Keep the right arm extended, the:
 - a. Rammer in line with the extension of the axis of the barrel.
 - b. Butt of the rammer just above the muzzle.

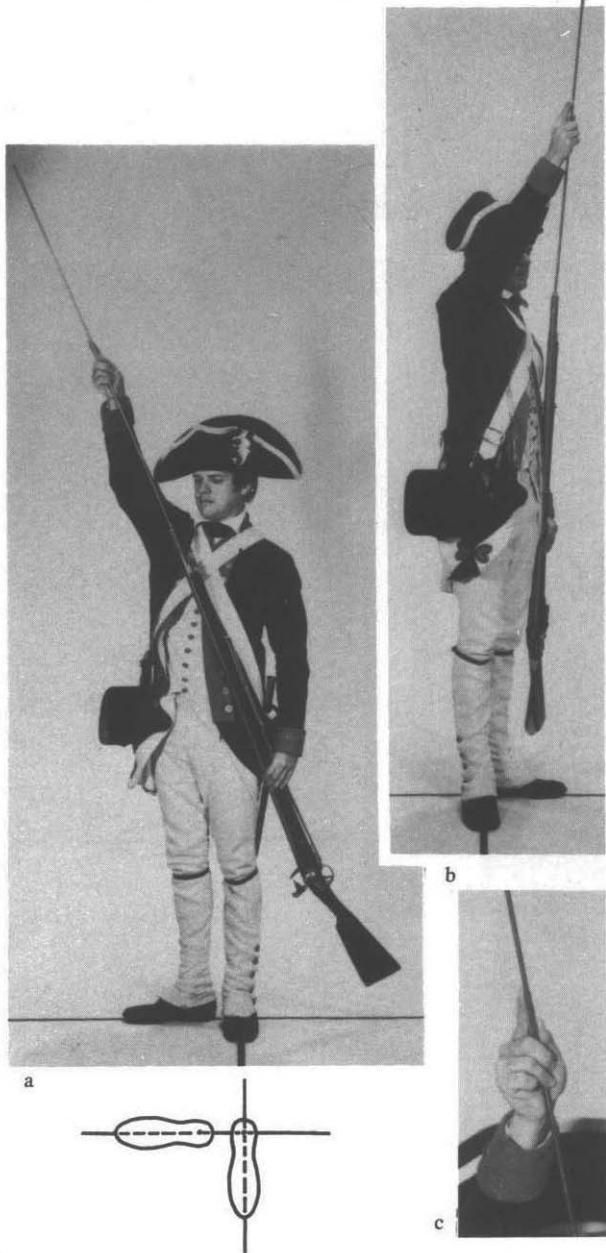


Fig. 8-26 Position of Draw, Rammer, Second Count, Part 2 from Charge with Cartridge viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the front.

Second Count, Part 3 (*Insert Rammer*) Figure 8-27

1. Enter the rammer into the muzzle, the:
 - a. Butt end resting on the cartridge.
 - b. Palm to the front.

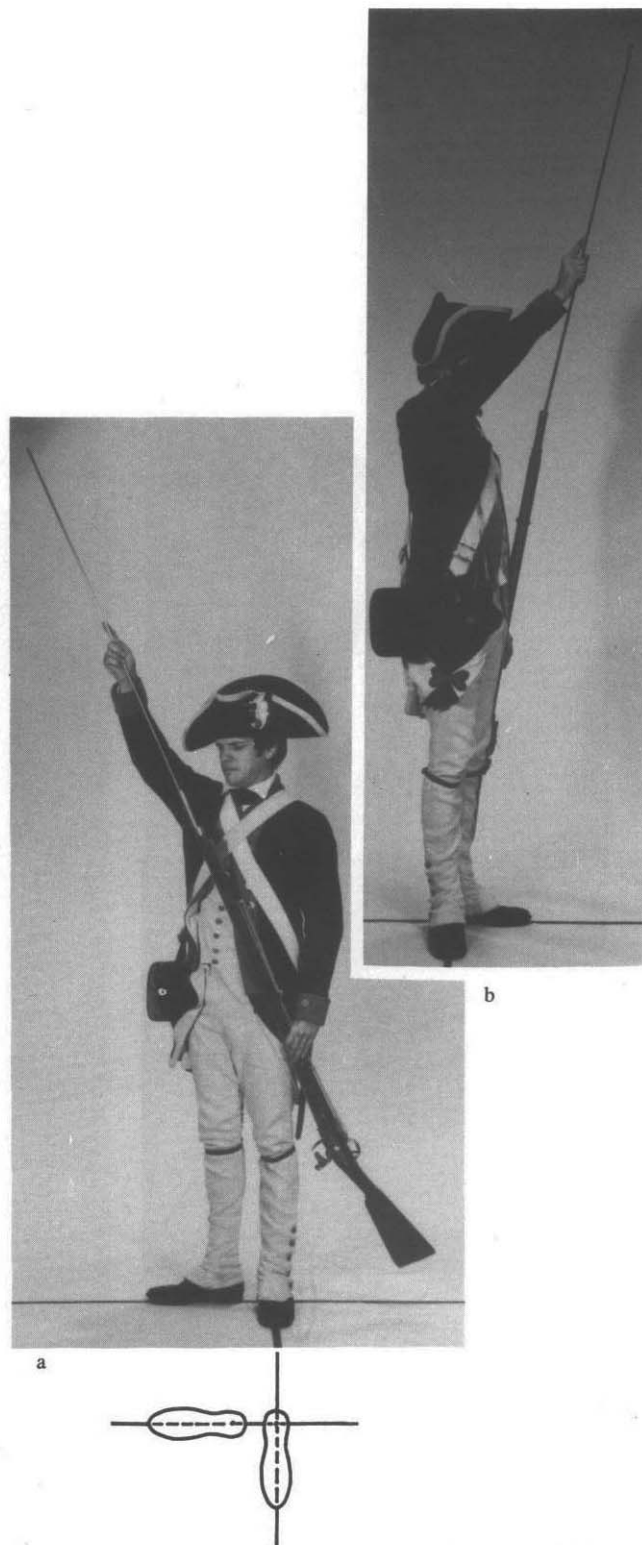


Fig. 8-27 Position of Draw, Rammer, Second Count, Part 3 from Charge with Cartridge viewed at (a) from the front and (b) from the right flank.

Second Count, Part 4 (*Start Cartridge*) Figure 8-28

1. Drive the cartridge down until the heel of the right hand touches the muzzle. (Figure 8-18c)
2. Turn the right hand as it descends, so that the back of the hand is toward the front at the end of the stroke. [19]
3. Lower the right elbow.

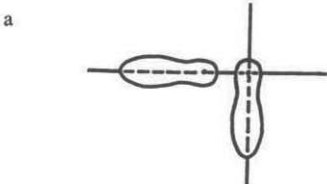
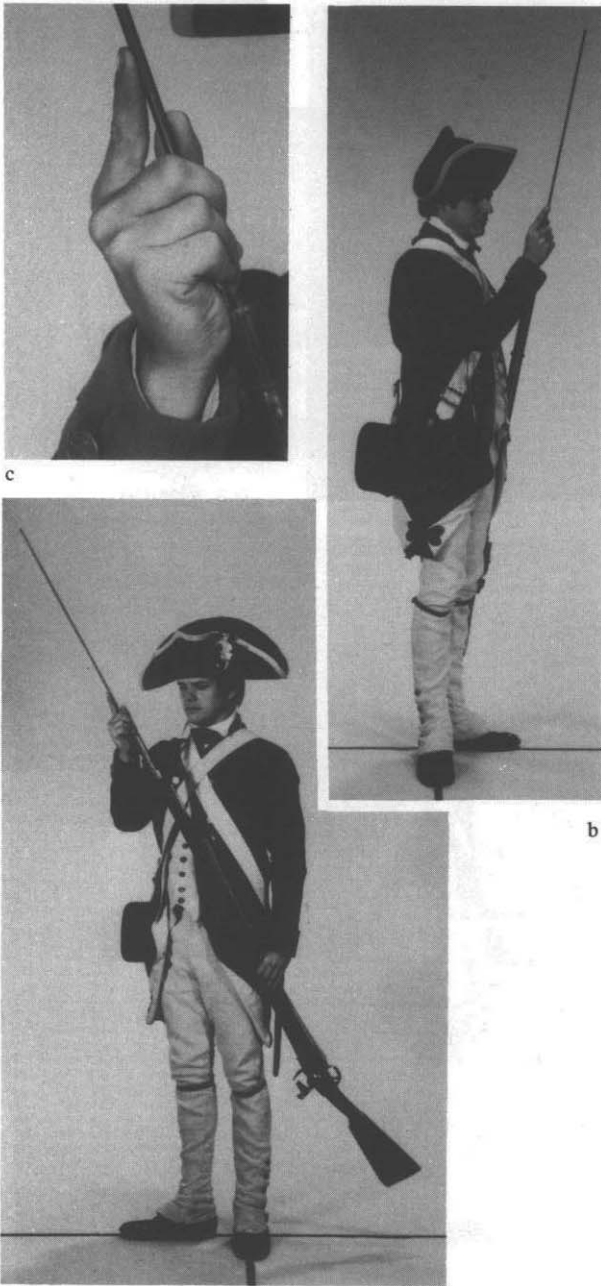


Fig. 8-28 Position of *Draw Rammer, Second Count, Part 4* from *Charge with Cartridge* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the front.

BEING AT DRAWN RAMMER, To Ram Down Cartridge:

XI. *Ram Down* — CARTRIDGE (One Count to be done as quickly as possible)

First Count, PART 1 (*Regrasp Rammer*) Figure 8-29

1. Extend the right arm sliding the thumb and forefinger up along the rammer.
2. Watch the right hand.
3. Grasp the point-end of the rammer between the thumb and forefinger. (Figure 8-28c)
 - a. Thumb pointed up along the rammer.
 - b. Forefinger bent.
 - c. Last three fingers closed.
 - d. Palm to the front.
4. Rest the butt of the rammer on the cartridge.

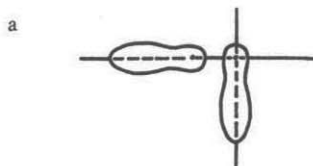
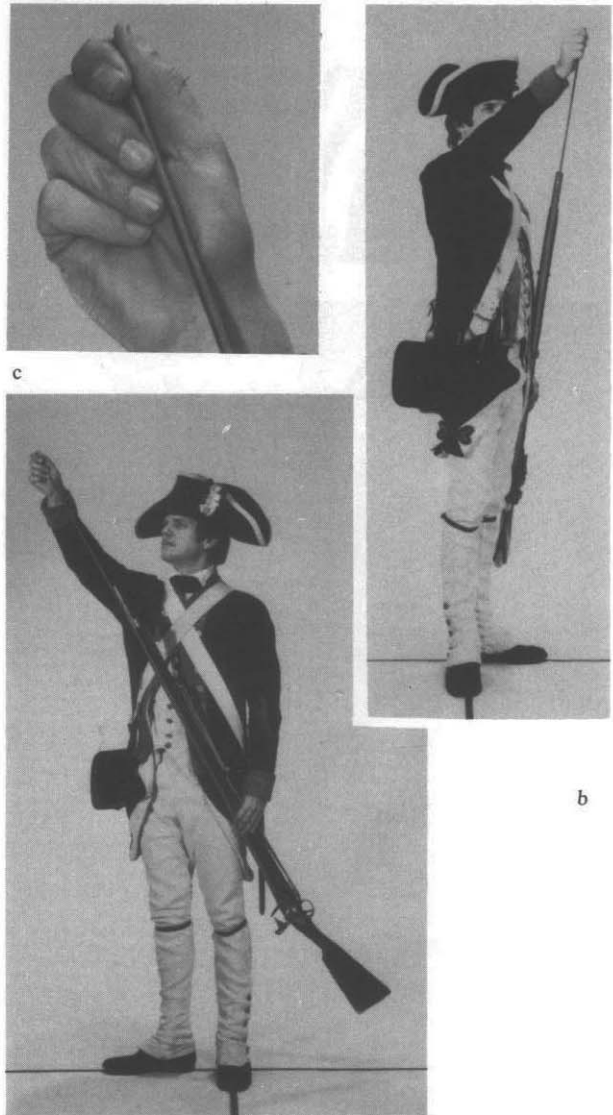


Fig. 8-29 Position of *Ram Down, Cartridge, First Count, Part 1* from *Draw Rammer* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the front.

First Count, Part 2 (*Ram Down*) Figure 8-30

1. Thrust the rammer down with force. [20]
2. Turn the hand as it descends so the back of the hand is to the front at the end of the stroke (Figure 8-30)
3. Drive the cartridge down on the powder. [21]

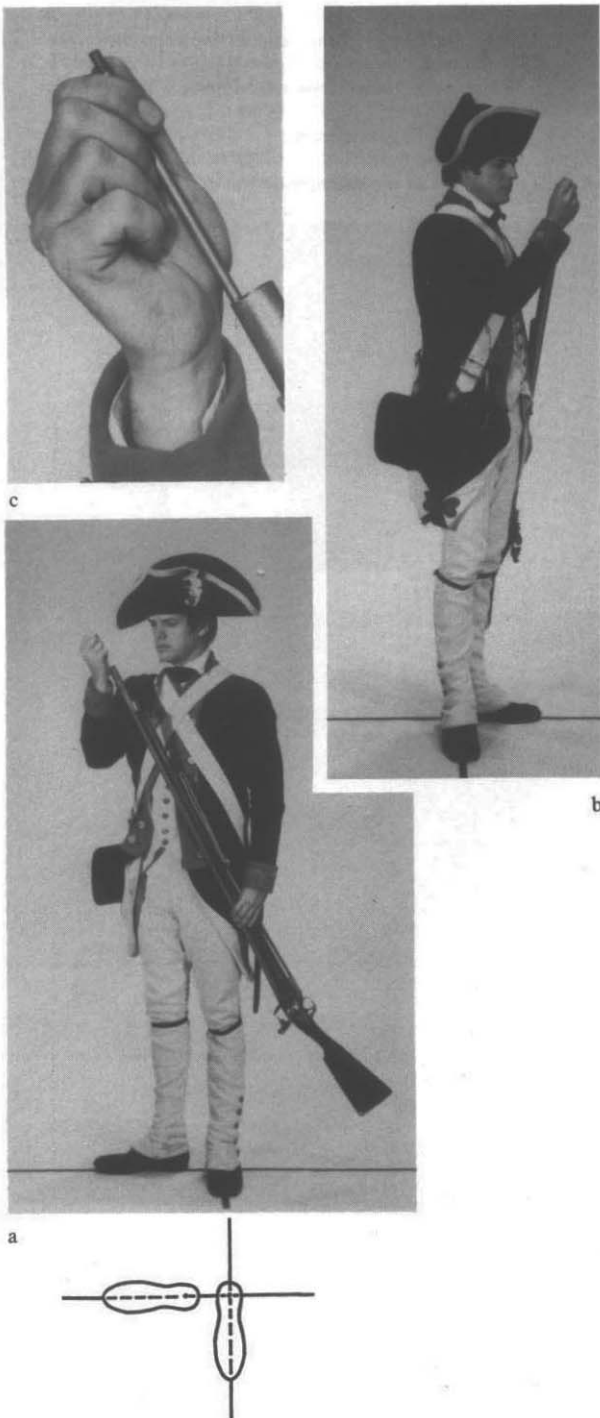


Fig. 8-30 Position of *Ram Down, Cartridge, First Count, Part 2* from *Draw, Rammer* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the left flank.

First Count, Part 3 (*Half-draw Rammer*) Figure 8-31

1. Extend the right arm smartly withdrawing the rammer half-out of the barrel. (Figure 8-31c)
2. Watch the right hand.

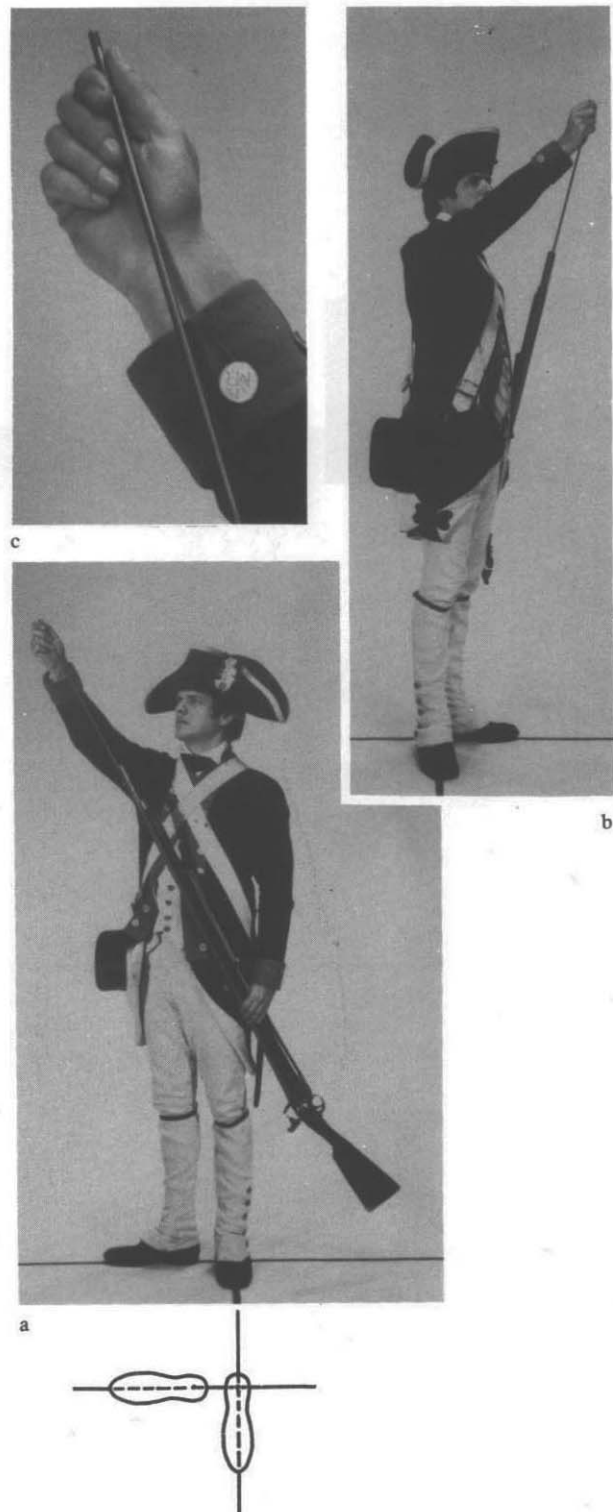


Fig. 8-31 Position of *Ram Down, Cartridge, First Count, Part 3* from *Draw, Rammer* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the front.

First Count, Part 4 (*Catch Rammer*) Figure 8-32

1. Release the rammer with the right hand.
2. Catch the rammer instantly at the middle with the right hand (Figure 8-32c), the:
 - a. Palm to the front.
 - b. Fingers extended, joined and horizontal.
 - c. Rammer lying in the hollow between the thumb and the forefinger.
 - d. Back of the thumb near the muzzle.
3. Watch the right hand.

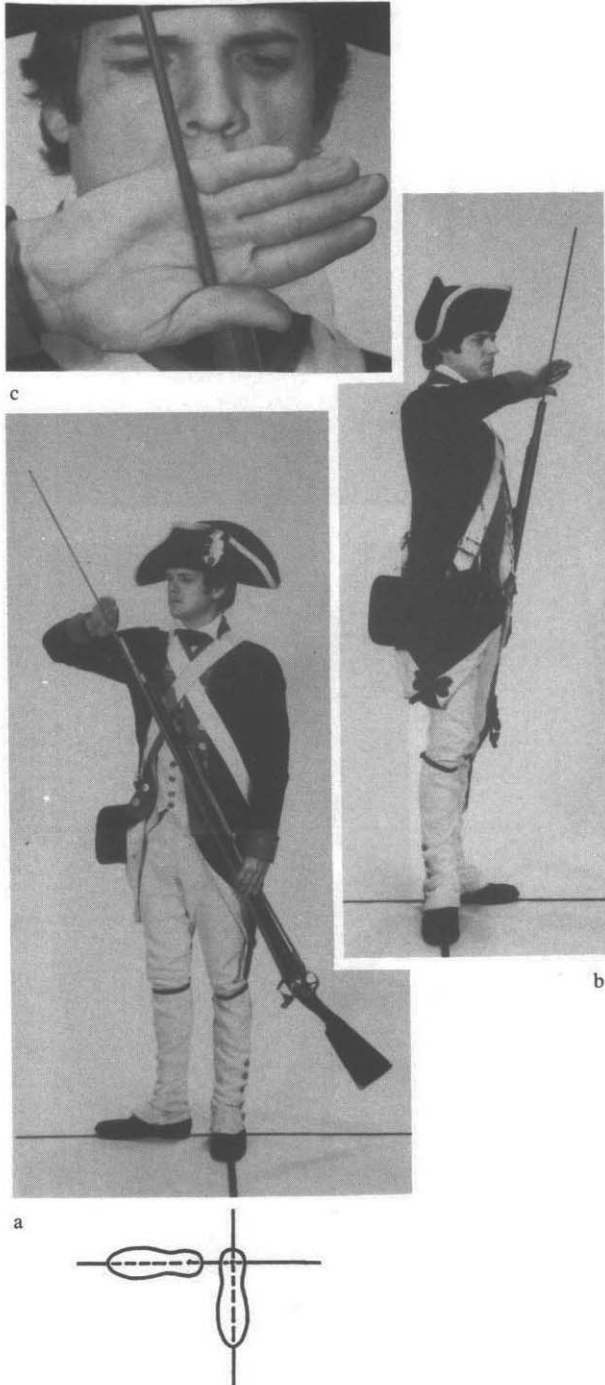


Fig. 8-32 Position of Ram Down, Cartridge, First Count, Part 4 from Draw, Rammer viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the front.

First Count, Part 5 (*Clear Rammer*) Figure 8-33

1. Extend the right arm.
2. Watch the right hand.
3. Clear the rammer from the muzzle.
4. Hold the rammer along the extension of the axis of the barrel (Figure 8-32c), the:
 - a. Palm to the front.
 - b. Fingers extended, joined and pointed upward.
 - c. Rammer lying between the hollow of the thumb and the forefinger and the tips of the second and third fingers.

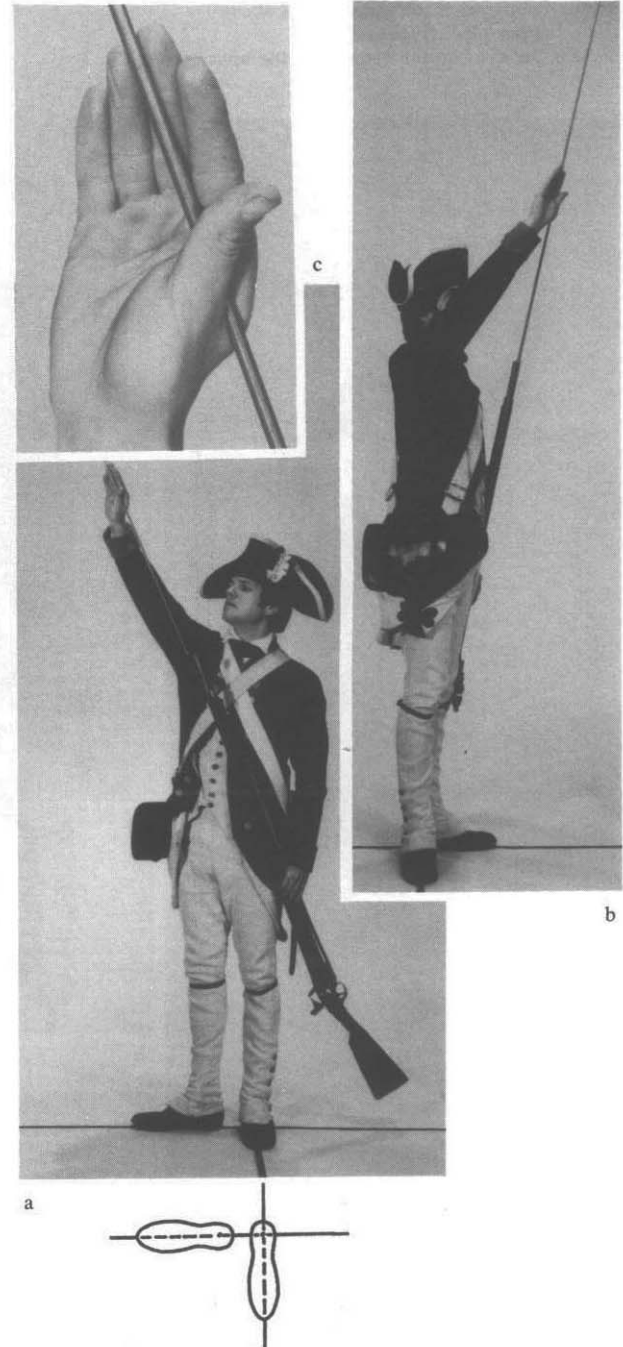
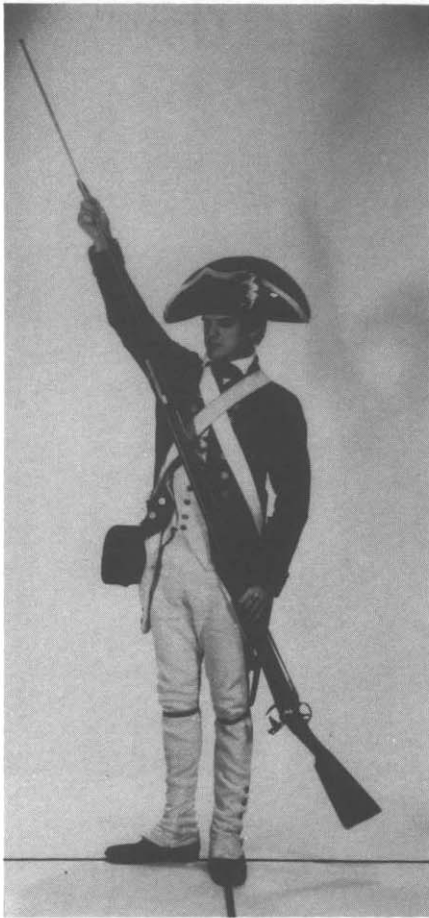


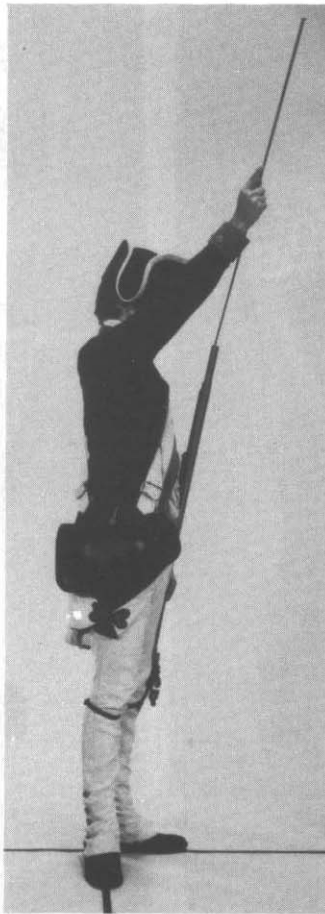
Fig. 8-33 Position of Ram Down, Cartridge, First Count, Part 5 from Draw, Rammer viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the right flank.

First Count, Part 6 (*Turn Rammer*) Figure 8-34

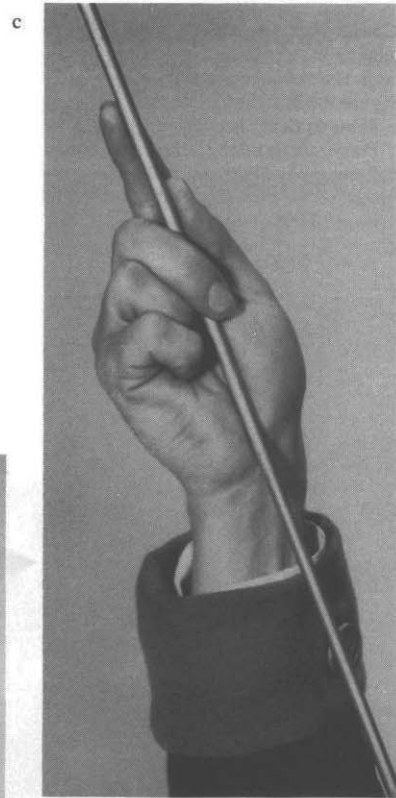
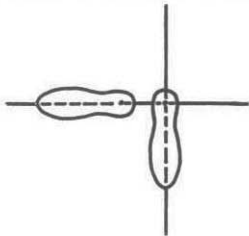
1. Close the last three fingers of the right hand, the:
 - a. Palm to the front.
 - b. Thumb and forefinger pointed up and extended along the rammer. (Figure 8-34c)
 - c. Point-end of the rammer passing forward and down.
 - d. Butt of the rammer passing to the rear and upward between the face and the prolongation of the axis of the bore.
2. Keep the right arm extended, the:
 - a. Rammer in line with the extension of the axis of the pipes.
 - b. Point-end of the rammer just above upper pipe. (Figure 8-34d)
3. Fix the eyes on the opening of the upper pipe.



a



b



c



d

Fig. 8-34 Position of *Ram Down, Cartridge, First Count, Part 6* from *Draw, Rammer* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the front. Point of the rammer over the upper pipe viewed at (d) from the front.

First Count, Part 7 (*Insert Rammer*) Figure 8-35

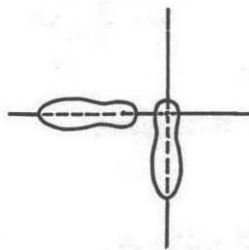
1. Insert the rammer into the pipes, the point-end as low as the third loop.
2. Turn the right hand as it descends so the back of the hand is toward the front when the hand strikes the muzzle. (Figure 8-35c)
3. Lower the right elbow.
4. Exert pressure on the rammer toward the body to keep the point-end in the groove of the channel. [22]



a



b



c

Fig. 8-35 Position of Ram Down, Cartridge, First Count, Part 7 from Draw, Rammer viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the rammer viewed at (c) from the front.

First Count, Part 8 (*Handle Rammer Butt*) Figure 8-36

1. Place the edge of the palm of the right hand on the butt end of the rammer (Figure 8-36c), the:
 - a. Fingers extended and joined.
 - b. Palm horizontal.
2. Watch the right hand.

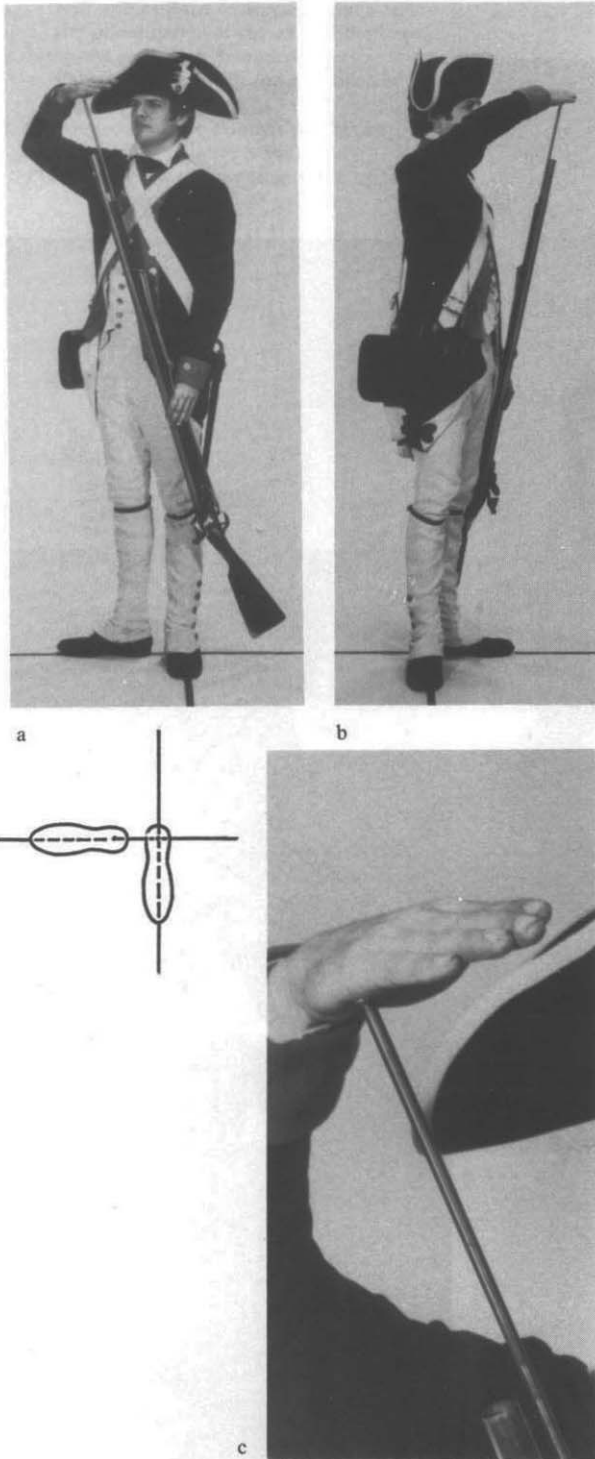


Fig. 8-36 Position of *Ram Down, Cartridge, First Count, Part 8* from *Draw, Rammer* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the butt of the rammer viewed at (c) from the front.

BEING AT RAMMED DOWN CARTRIDGE, To Return Rammer:

XII. *Return* — **RAMMER!** (One Count to be done as quickly as possible)

First Count, Part 1 (*Seat Rammer*) Figure 8-37

1. Thrust the rammer down with the right hand to the bottom of the channel, the:
 - a. Edge of the palm resting on the butt end of the rammer. (Figure 8-37c)
 - b. Right hand and forearm horizontal.
 - c. Palm down.
 - d. Fingers closed.
2. Apply a light pressure on the butt end of the rammer toward the body as it is thrust down to keep the point-end close to the channel, thereby avoiding interference with the loops.

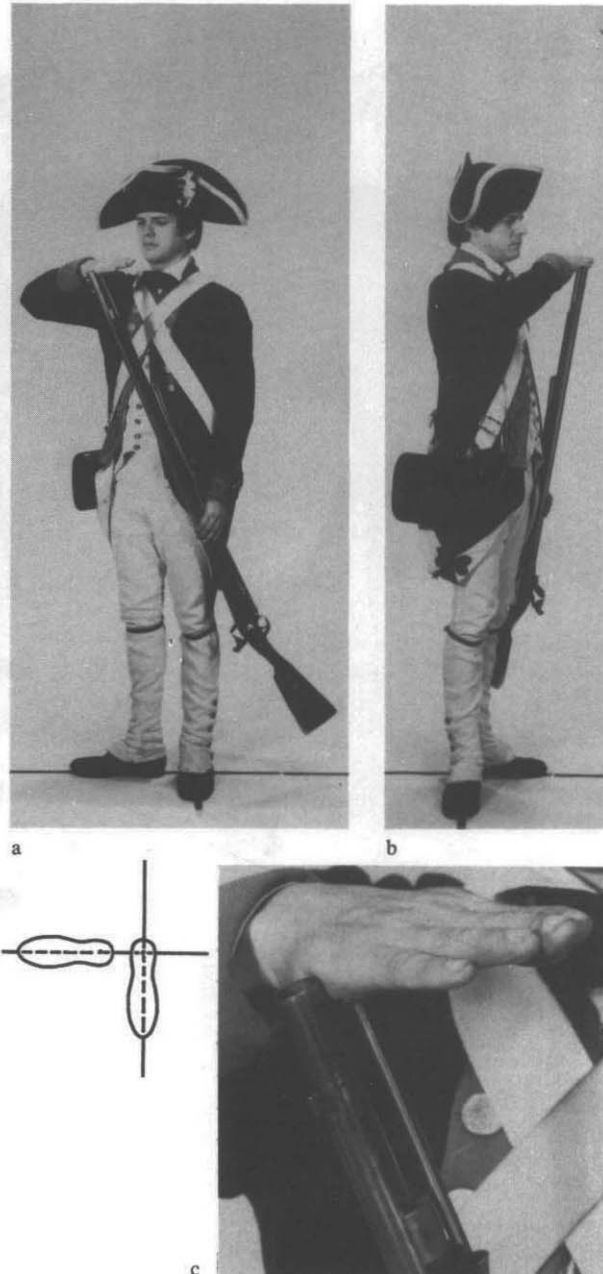


Fig. 8-37 Position of *Return, Rammer, First Count, Part 1* from *Ram Down, Cartridge* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the butt of the rammer viewed at (c) from the front.

First Count, Part 2 (*Raise Piece*) Figure 8-38

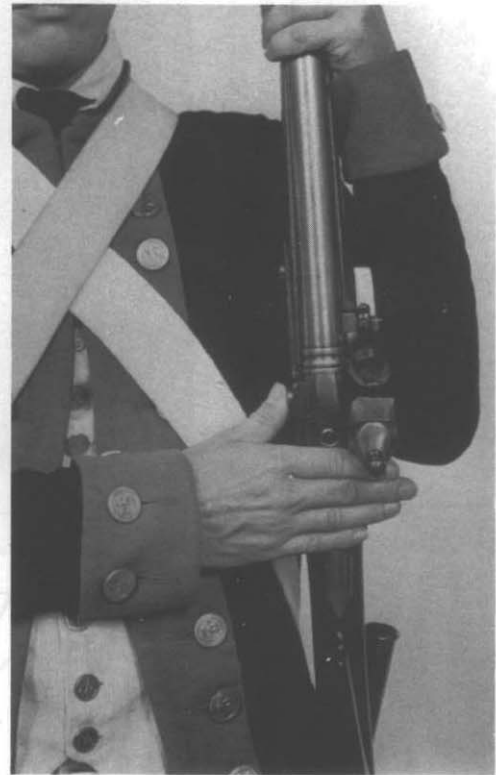
1. Face to the front on both heels.
2. Place the left eye over the center of the body.
3. At the same time, raise the piece briskly with the left hand about four inches [23] before the left shoulder, the:
 - a. Left hand as high as the chin.
 - b. Left forearm against the piece.
 - c. Barrel to the front.
4. Open the left hand and regrasp the stock immediately at the swell, the:
 - a. Thumb pointed upward and bearing on the sling. [24]
 - b. Fingers around the barrel.
 - c. Knuckles to the front.
5. At the same time, place the right hand under the cock (Figure 8-38c), the:
 - a. First joint of the forefinger under the comb of the cock.
 - b. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointed upward.
 - c. Fingers extended and joined.
 - d. Back of the hand to the front.



a



b



c

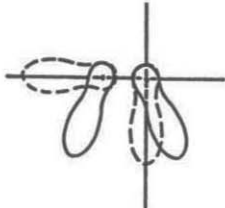


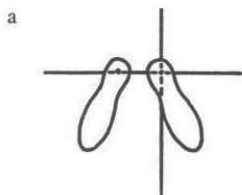
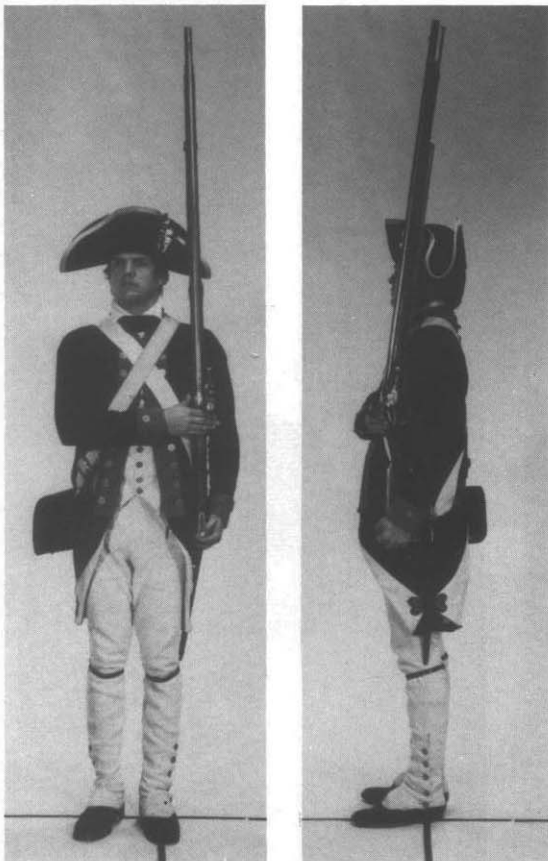
Fig. 8-38 Position of *Return Rammer*, *First Count, Part 2* from *Ram Down, Cartridge* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the right hand under the cock viewed at (c) from the front.

BEING AT RETURNED RAMMER, To Shoulder Firelock:

XIII. *Shoulder* — *FIRELOCK!* (Two Counts)

First Count (*Grasp Butt*) Figure 8-39

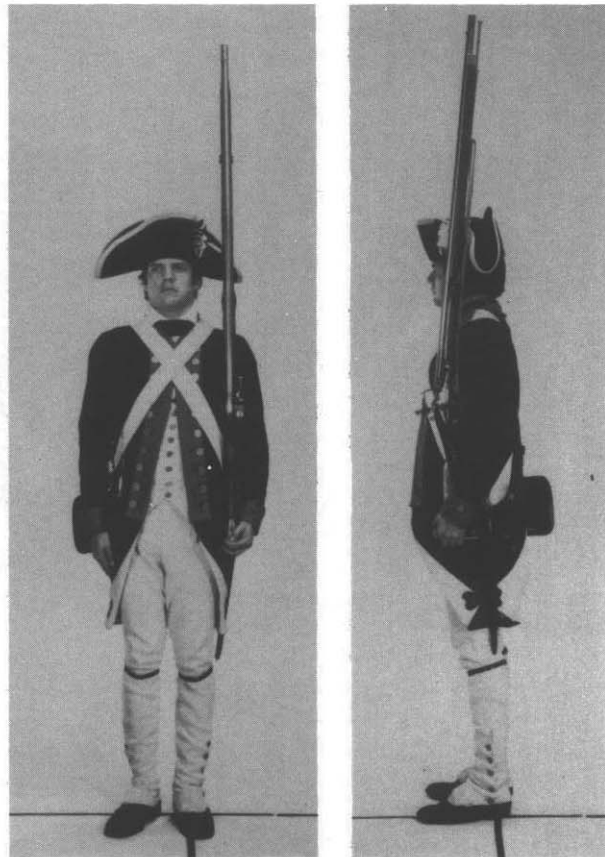
1. Quit the piece with the left hand bringing it down hard on the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger before the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.
 - c. Left elbow back.
2. Press the piece against the left shoulder with the right hand.



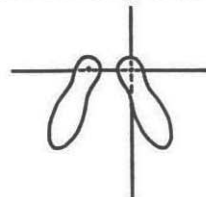
b

Second Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 8-40

1. Drop the right hand quickly to the side, the palm toward the thigh.



a



b

Fig. 8-39 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, First Count* from *Return, Rammer* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 8-40 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Second Count* from *Return, Rammer* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Order Firelock:

XIV. Order — FIRELOCK! (Two Counts)

First Count (*Grasp Piece*) Figure 8-41

1. Lower the piece smartly by extending the left arm as far as possible without stiffness.
2. At the same time, grasp the piece briskly with the right hand at the left shoulder just below the swell at the tail pipe, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. Right elbow close to the body.
 - c. Little finger almost as high as the shoulder.

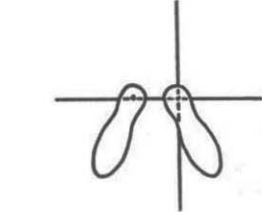
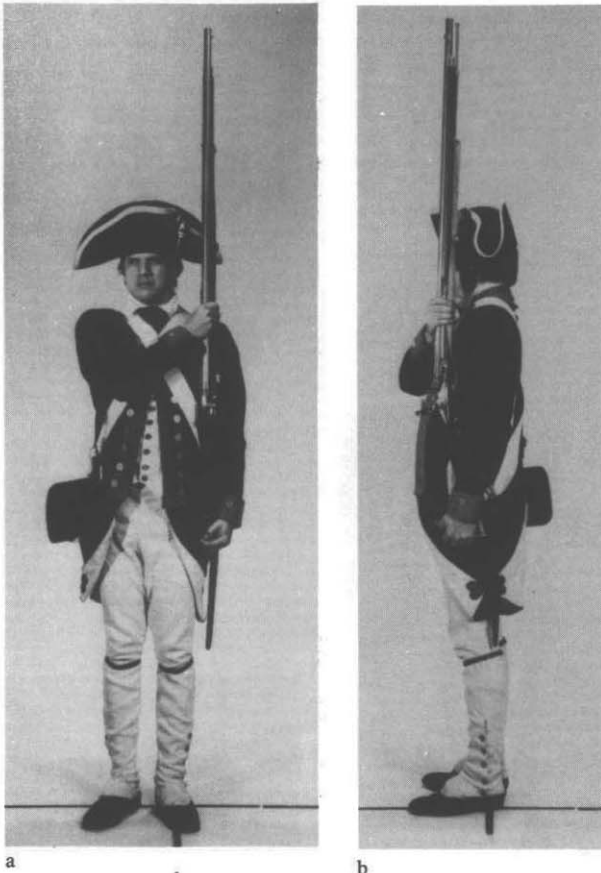


Fig. 8-41 Position of Order, Firelock, First Count from Shoulder, Firelock viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count, Part 1 (*Lower Piece*) Figure 8-42

1. Quit the piece with the left hand and drop it to the side, the palm toward the thigh.
2. At the same time, lower the piece briskly with the right hand to the right side, the:
 - a. Butt plate just above the ground. [25]
 - b. Muzzle near the hollow of the right shoulder.
 - c. Barrel to the rear.
 - d. Right hand supported on the right thigh.
 - e. Little finger behind and against the stock and barrel. (Figure 8-42c)
 - f. Other fingers extended and joined.

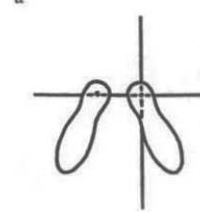
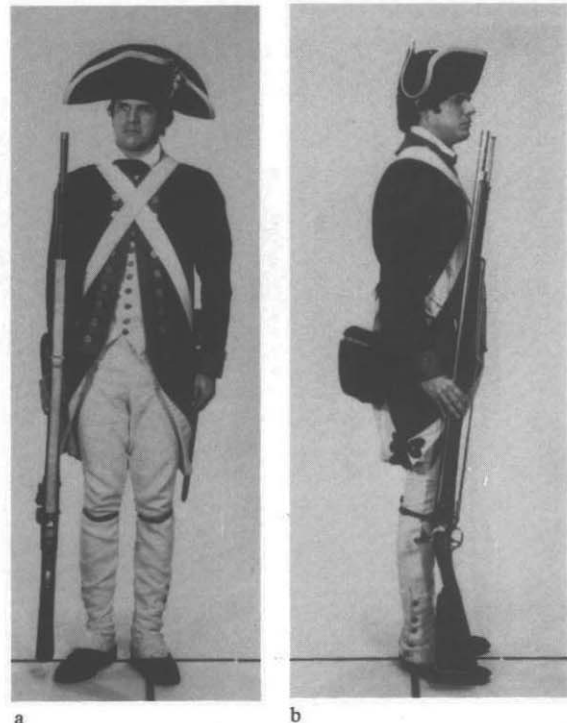


Fig. 8-42 Position of Order, Firelock, Second Count, Part 1 from Shoulder, Firelock viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the stock and barrel viewed at (c) from the right flank.

Second Count, Part 2 (*Ground Butt*) Figure 8-43

1. Open the fingers of the right hand slightly and allow the piece to slip gently to the ground, the:
 - a. Toe of the butt even with the toe of the right foot.
 - b. Flat of the butt against the outside of the right foot.
 - c. Barrel resting against the hollow between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand. (Figure 8-43c)
 - d. Fingers pointed downward on the outside of the stock.
 - e. Thumb lying along the barrel.
 - f. Right hand as low as possible, the arm extended without stiffness.
 - g. Piece detached sufficiently from the shoulder to hold the axis of the barrel vertical.

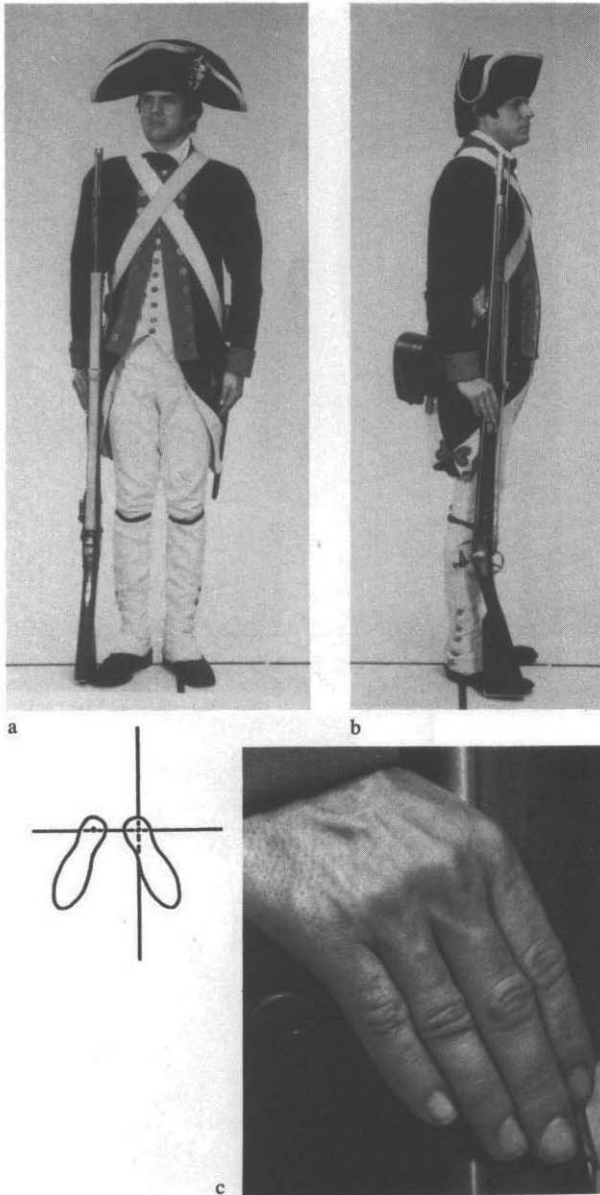


Fig. 8-43 Position of *Order, Firelock, Second Count, Part 2* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the stock and barrel viewed at (c) from the right flank.

BEING AT ORDERED FIRELOCK, To Ground Firelock:
XV *Ground* — FIRELOCK! (Two Counts)

First Count, Part 1 (*Step Forward*) Figure 8-44

1. Slip the first two fingers of the right hand around the stock until the ends are on the left of the rammer.
2. Turn the piece to the right on the heel of the butt with the right hand, the:
 - a. Lock to the rear.
 - b. Toe of the butt to the right.
 - c. Fingers on the rammer.
 - d. Thumb on the barrel.
3. At the same time, step directly to the front with the left foot about three feet.

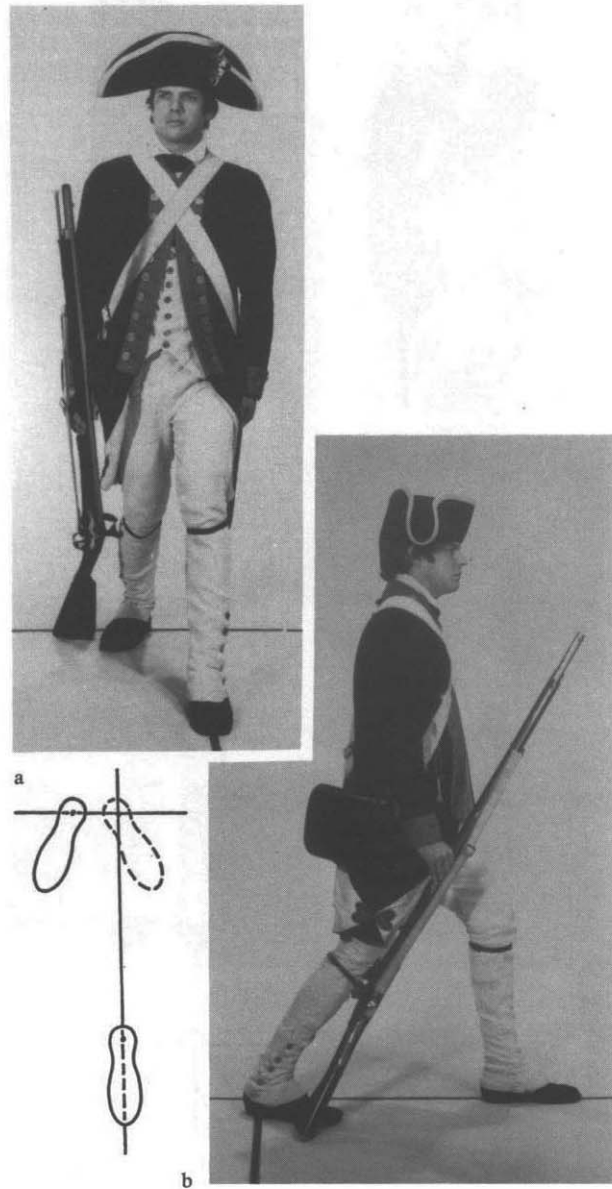


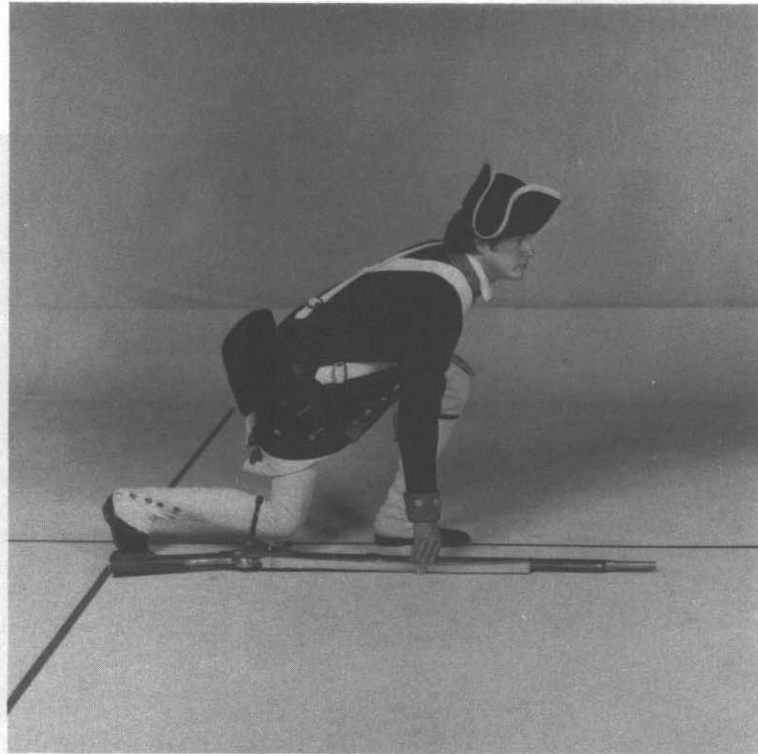
Fig. 8-44 Position of *Ground, Firelock, First Count, Part 1* from *Order, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

First Count, Part 2 (*Kneel*) Figure 8-45

1. Lower the right knee within one or two inches of the ground.
2. Place the palm of the left hand on the left knee to support the body.
3. Lay the piece on the ground, the:
 - a. Barrel directly to the front.
 - b. Lock up.
4. Place the left heel as far forward as the right hand.
5. Keep the head and eyes up and to the right. [26]



a



b

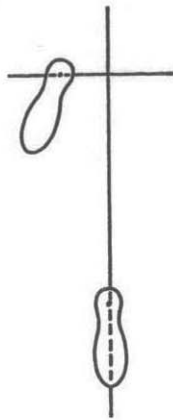


Fig. 8-45 Position of *Ground, Firelock, First Count, Part 2* from *Order, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Second Count (*Stand Up*) Figure 8-46

1. Quit the piece with the right hand.
2. Stand up.
3. Bring the heel of the left foot to a position two inches from and even with the right heel, the:
 - a. Toes turned out.
 - b. Hands hanging down by the sides, palms to the thighs.
 - c. Left eye in line with the center of the body.



a



b



Fig. 8-46 Position of *Ground, Firelock, Second Count* from *Order, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING AT GROUNDED ARMS, To Take Up Firelock:

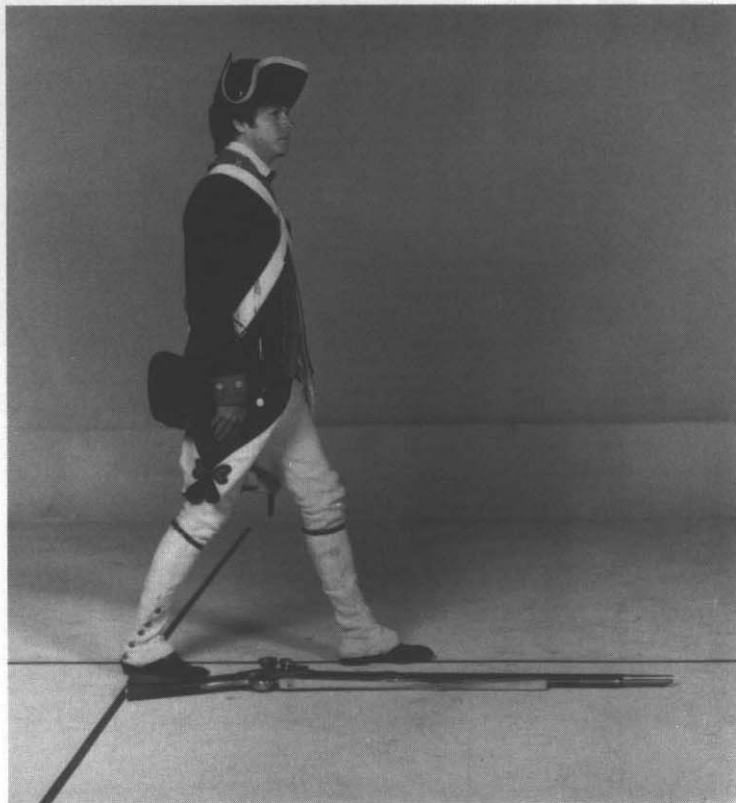
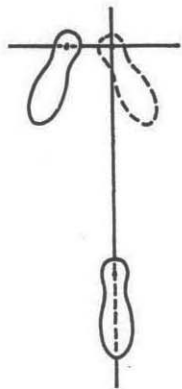
XVI. *Take Up* — FIRELOCK! (Two Counts)

First Count, Part 1 (*Step Forward*) Figure 8-47

1. Step directly to the front with the left foot about three feet.



a



b

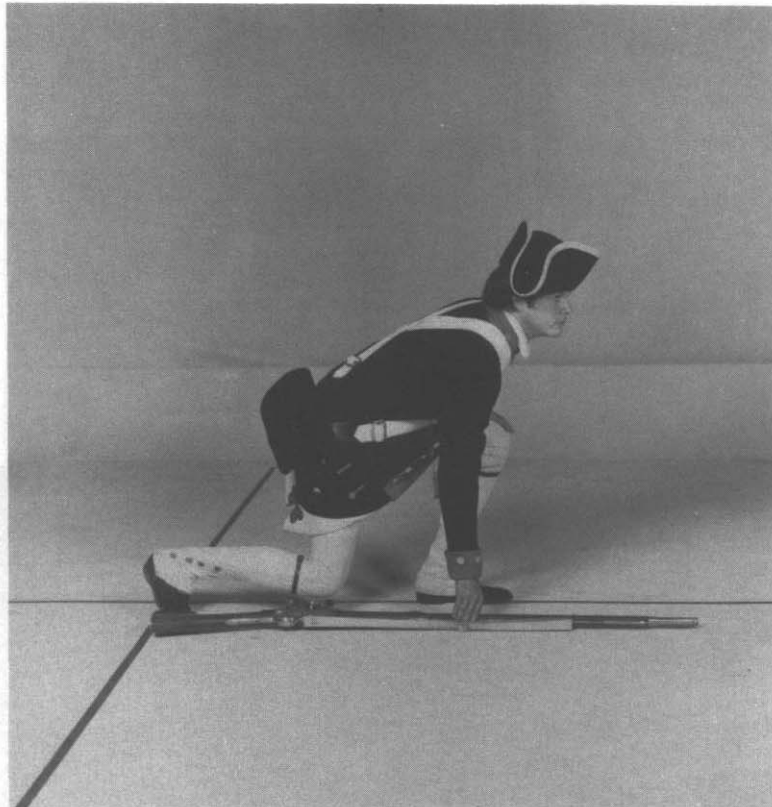
Fig. 8-47 Position of *Take Up, Firelock, First Count, Part 1* from *Ground, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

First Count, Part 2 (*Kneel*) Figure 8-48

1. Lower the right knee within an inch or two of the ground. [27]
2. Place the palm of the left hand on the left knee to support the body.
3. Grasp the piece above the tailpipe with the right hand, the:
 - a. Thumb over the barrel.
 - b. Fingers under the stock.
4. Place the left heel as far forward as the right hand.
5. Keep the head up and the eyes to the right.



a



b

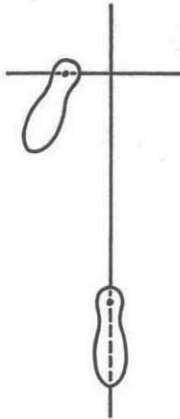


Fig. 8-48 Position of *Take Up, Firelock, First Count, Part 2* from *Ground, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Second Count, Part 1 (*Stand Up*) Figure 8-49

1. Stand up.
2. Bring the left heel to a position two inches from and even with the right heel, the:
 - a. Toes turned out.
 - b. Left hand hanging down the side, the palm toward the thigh.
3. Raise the piece to the right side, the:
 - a. Piece vertical.
 - b. Right hand grasping the piece between the thumb and the fingers.
 - c. Toe of the butt of the piece pointing to the right.
 - d. Heel of the butt of the piece near the side of the right foot.
 - e. Lock to the rear.
 - f. Fingers on the rammer.
 - g. Thumb on the barrel.

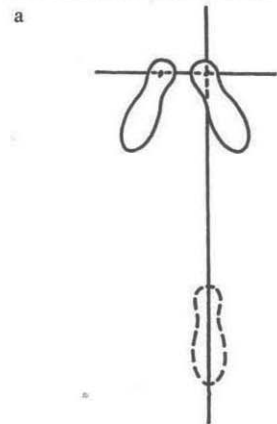


Fig. 8-49 Position of *Take Up, Firelock, Second Count, Part 1* from *Ground, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Second Count, Part 2 (*Turn Piece*) Figure 8-50

1. Turn the piece with the right hand to the left [28] on the heel of the butt, the:
 - a. Rammer to the front.
 - b. Toe of the piece even with the toe of the right foot.
 - c. Flat of the butt against the outside of the right foot.
 - d. Barrel resting against the hollow between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand.
 - e. Thumb lying along the barrel.
 - f. Fingers pointed downward on the stock.
 - g. Right hand as low as possible with the arm extended without stiffness.
 - h. Piece detached sufficiently from the shoulder to hold the axis of the barrel vertical.

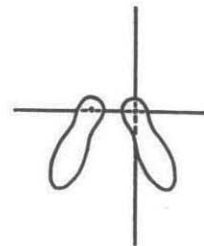


Fig. 8-50 Position of *Take Up, Firelock, Second Count, Part 2* from *Ground, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING AT ORDERED FIRELOCK, To Shoulder Firelock:

XVII. *Shoulder* — FIRELOCK! (Two Counts)

First Count, Part 1 (*Raise Piece*) Figure 8-51

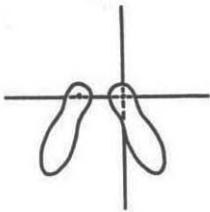
1. Raise the piece smartly with the left hand to the left side, the:
 - a. Piece before the left shoulder.
 - b. Barrel to the front.
 - c. Right forearm nearly horizontal.
 - d. Back of the hand to the front.



a



b



First Count, Part 2 (*Toss Piece*) Figure 8-52

1. Toss the piece up with the right hand.
2. Slip the right hand down as the piece is brought against the shoulder.
3. Regrasp the piece below the end of the tail pipe, the back of the hand to the front.
4. At the same time, place the left hand under the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger before the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.
 - c. Left elbow back.



a



b

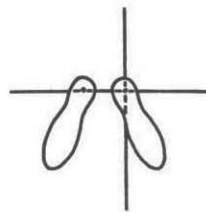


Fig. 8-51 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, First Count, Part 1* from *Order, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 8-52 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, First Count, Part 2* from *Order, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 8-53

1. Drop the right hand quickly to the side, the palm toward the thigh.

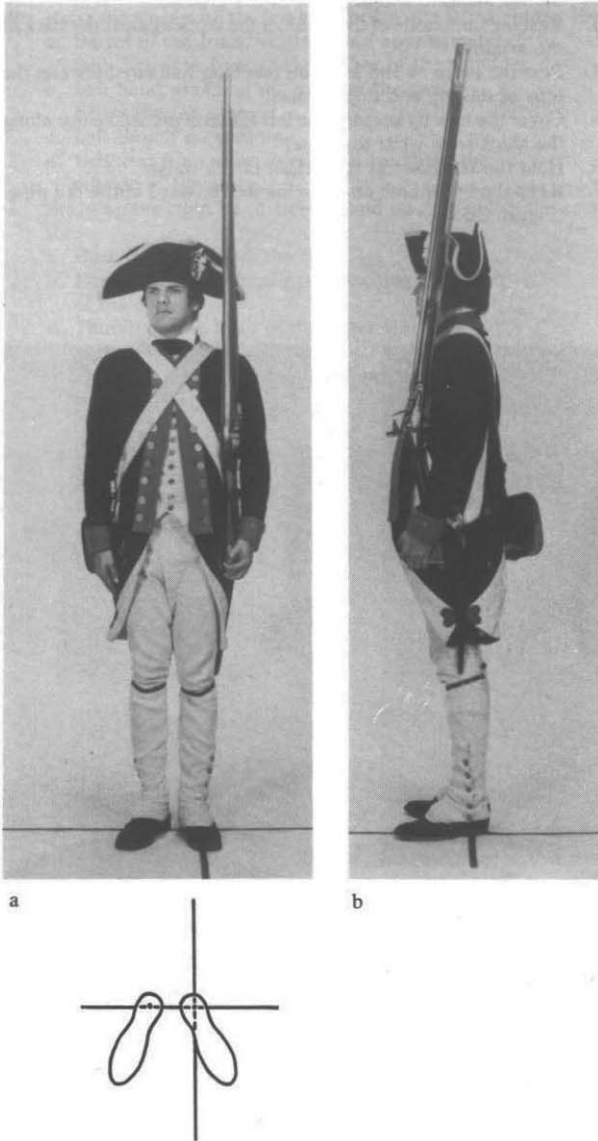


Fig. 8-53 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Second Count* from *Order, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Secure Firelock:

XVIII. *Secure* — *FIRELOCK!* (Three Counts)

First Count (*Support Cock*) Figure 8-54

1. Bring up the right hand smartly and place it under the cock (Figure 8-54c), the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. First joint of the forefinger touching the comb of the cock.
 - c. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointing upwards.

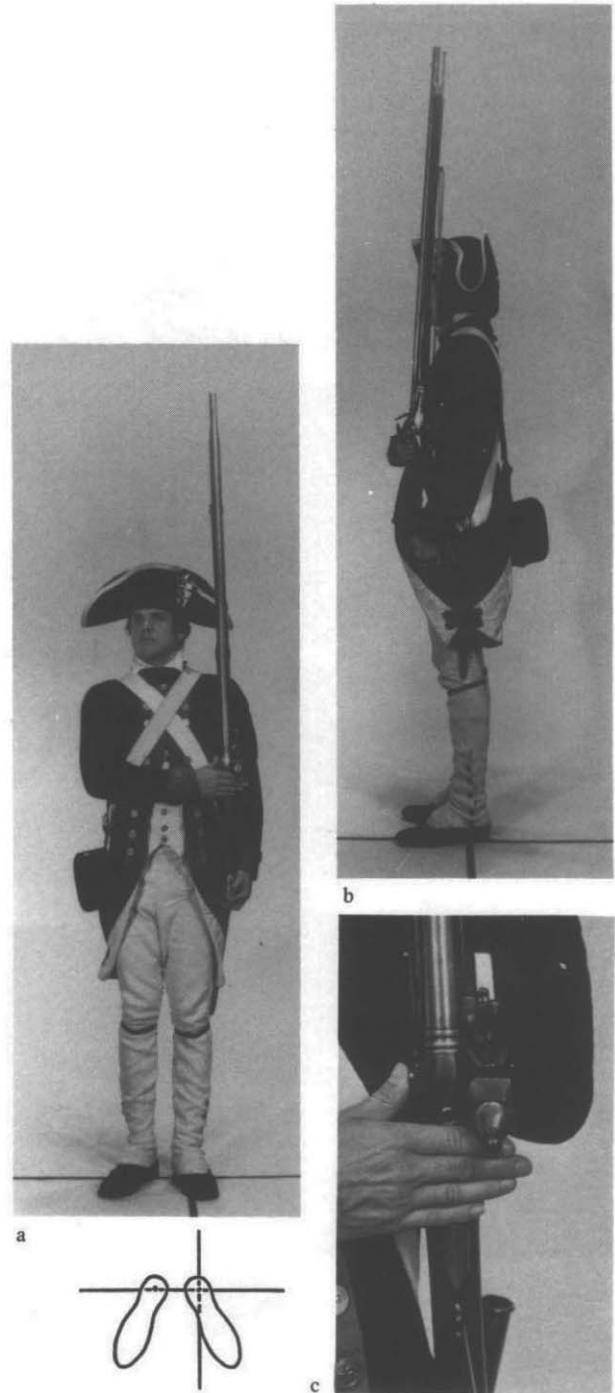


Fig. 8-54 Position of *Secure, Firelock, First Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the right hand under the cock viewed at (c) from the front.

Second Count (*Grasp Swell*) Figure 8-55

1. Let go of the butt with the left hand.
2. Seize the piece with the left hand at the swell of the stock above the tail pipe (Figure 8-55c), the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the left.
 - b. Fingers around the barrel.
 - c. Thumb up and over the sling. [29]
3. Bring down the left forearm from wrist to elbow close along the outside of the stock from swell to the lock.
4. Detach the piece from the shoulder with the left hand until the barrel is vertical without moving the butt.

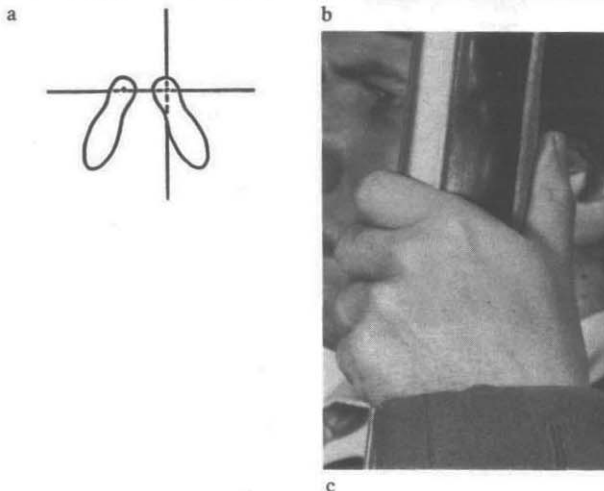
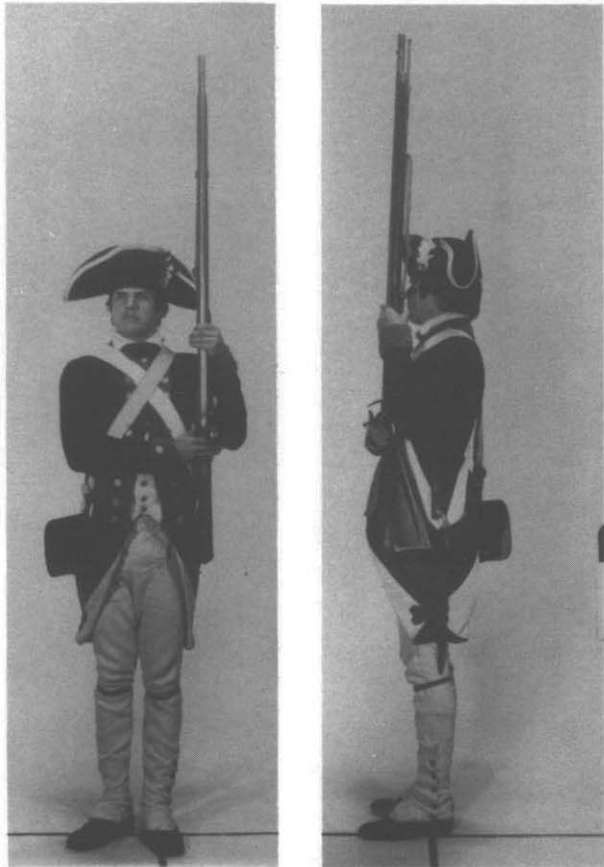


Fig. 8-55 Position of *Secure, Firelock, Second Count from Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the thumb of the left hand over the sling viewed at (c) from the left flank.

Third Count (*Lower Muzzle*) Figure 8-56

1. Drop the right hand to the side, palm toward the thigh.
2. At the same time, lower the muzzle directly to the front with the left hand to within a foot of the ground.
3. Rest the underside of the small of the stock against the back of the armpit.
4. Rest the piece on the left side touching halfway between the tops of the hip and thigh bones.
5. Cover the lock by keeping the left forearm pressed close along the stock from wrist to elbow.
6. Hold the left hand at the height of the waist.
7. Keep the left thumb on the sling just forward of the tail pipe. (Figure 8-55c)

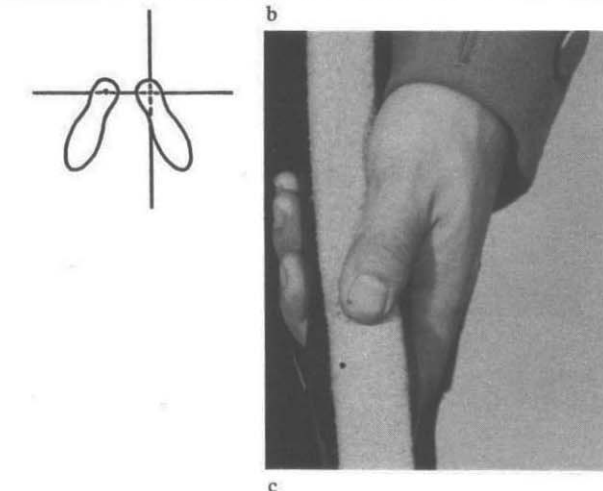


Fig. 8-56 Position of *Secure, Firelock, Third Count from Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the thumb of the left hand over the sling viewed at (c) from the front.

BEING AT SECURED FIRELOCK, To Shoulder Firelock:

XIX. *Shoulder* — FIRELOCK! (Three Counts)

First Count (*Raise Piece*) Figure 8-57

1. Raise the piece with the left hand before the left shoulder, the:
 - a. Barrel to the front, vertical, and approximately four inches in front of the hollow of the shoulder.
 - b. Left hand grasping the stock at the swell below the tail pipe.
 - c. Left thumb pointed up.
 - d. Left arm from wrist to elbow close along the outside of the piece.
2. Bring up the right hand smartly and place it under the cock, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. First joint of the forefinger touching the comb of the cock.
 - c. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointed upward.
 - d. Fingers extended, joined, and pressed against the small of the stock.

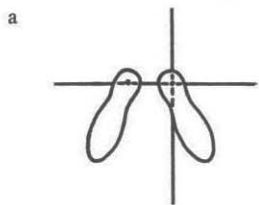
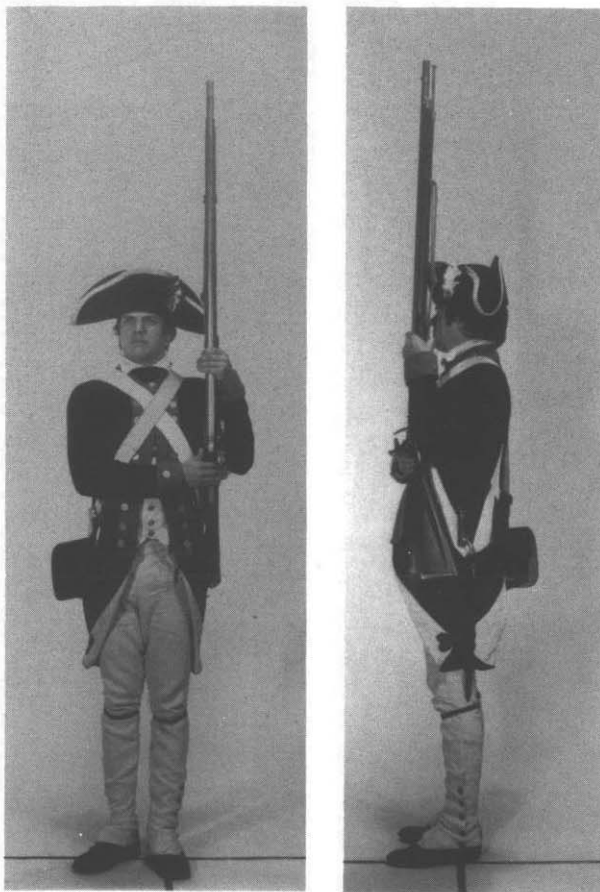


Fig. 8-57 Position of *Shoulder Firelock, First Count* from *Secure Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Grasp Butt*) Figure 8-58

1. Let go the piece with the left hand bringing it down hard on the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger before the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.

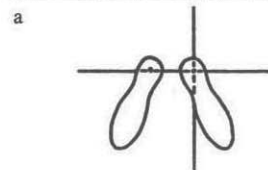
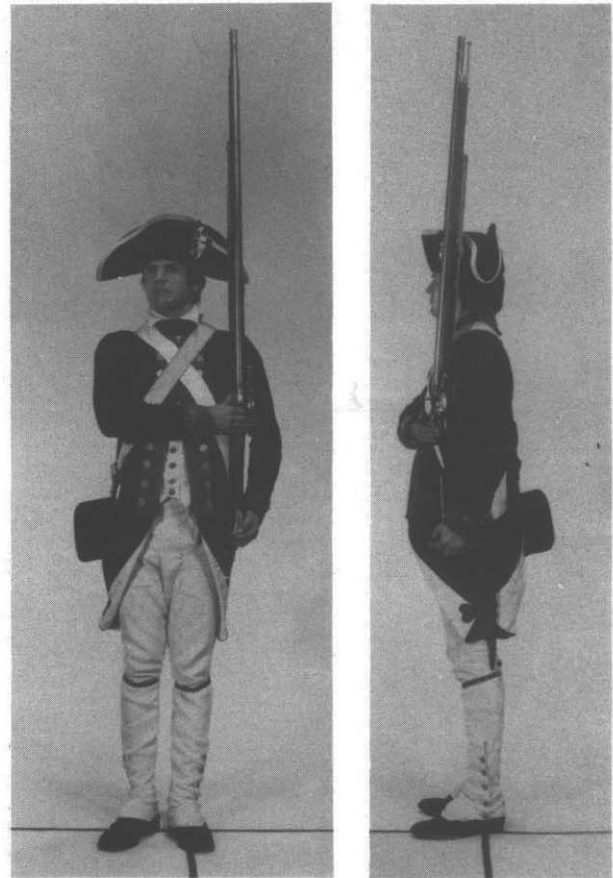
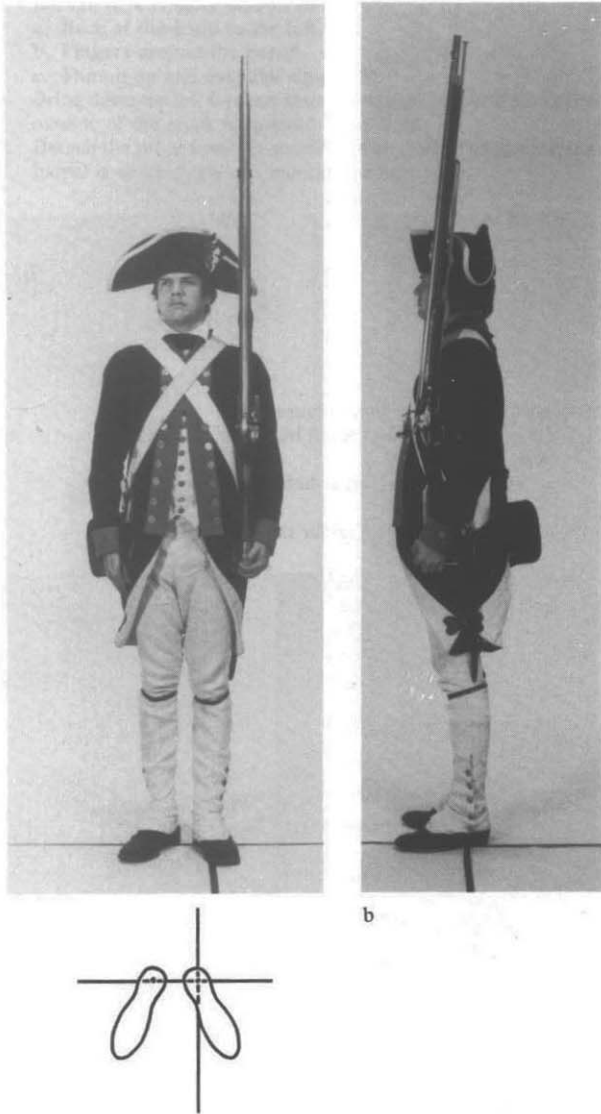


Fig. 8-58 Position of *Shoulder Firelock, Second Count* from *Secure Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Third Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 8-59

1. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm towards the thigh.



BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Fix Bayonet:

XX. *FIX* — *BAYONET!* (Three Counts to be performed as quickly as possible)

First Count (*Support Cock*) Figure 8-60

1. Bring the right hand up smartly and place it under the cock, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. First joint of the forefinger touching the comb of the cock.
 - c. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointing upwards.

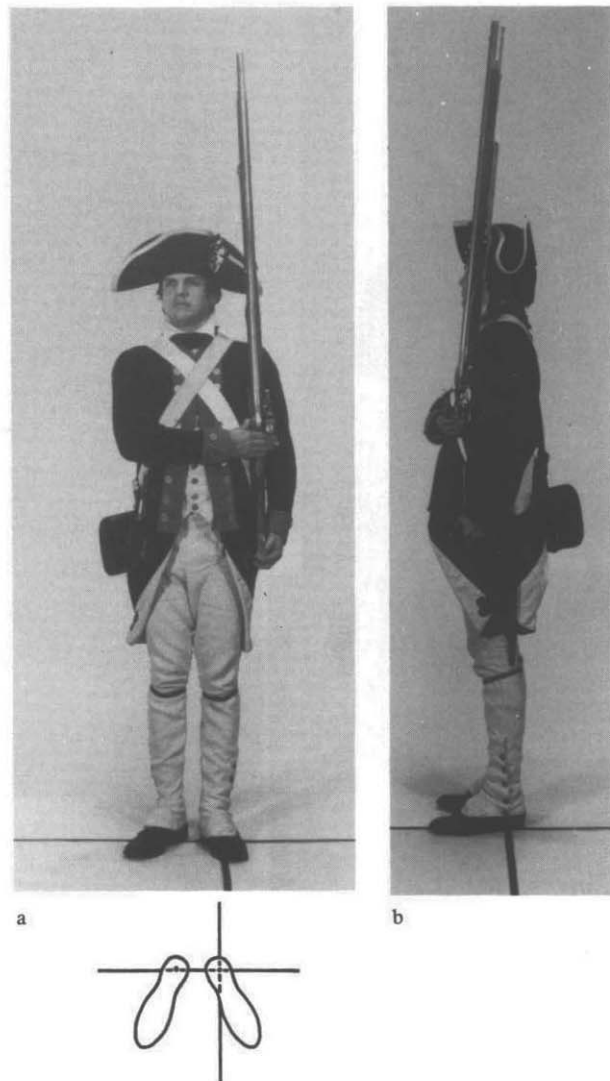
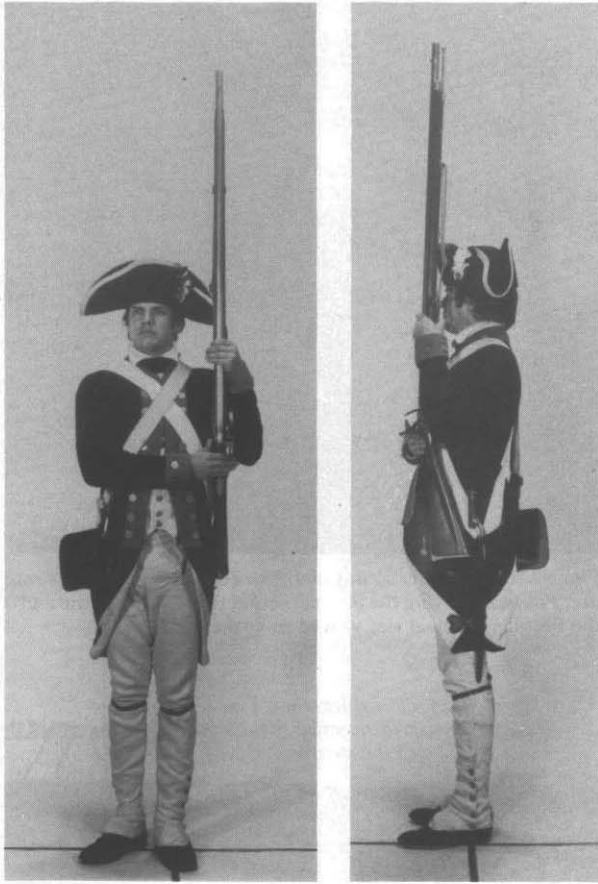


Fig. 8-59 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Third Count* from *Secure, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 8-60 Position of *Fix, Bayonet, First Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

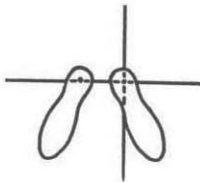
Second Count (*Grasp Swell*) Figure 8-61

1. Let go of the butt with the left hand.
2. Seize the piece with the left hand at the swell of the stock above the tail pipe, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the left.
 - b. Fingers around the barrel.
 - c. Thumb up and over the sling.
3. Bring down the left forearm from wrist to elbow close along the outside of the stock from swell to the lock.
4. Detach the piece from the shoulder with the left hand until the barrel is vertical without moving the butt.



a

b



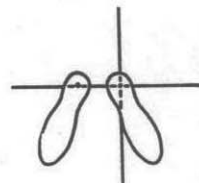
Third Count, Part 1 (*Grasp Bayonet*) Figure 8-62

1. Let go the piece with the right hand.
2. Lower the piece down the side with the left hand, the:
 - a. Barrel to the front.
 - b. Muzzle about five inches before the hollow of the left shoulder.
 - c. Heel of the butt as far back as the heels.
 - d. Left arm hanging straight down.
 - e. Left hand holding the piece a little above the swell.
3. At the same time, grasp the socket of the bayonet with the right hand (Figure 8-62c), the:
 - a. Shank between the thumb and forefinger.
 - b. Thumb in the hollow of the bend.
 - c. Heel of the hand about an inch below the end of the socket.



a

b



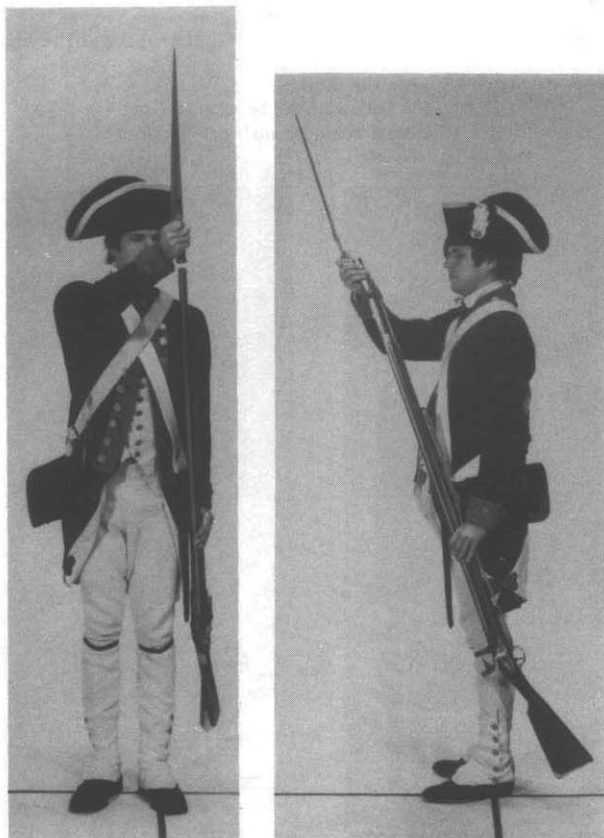
c

Fig. 8-61 Position of *Fix, Bayonet, Second Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 8-62 Position of *Fix, Bayonet, Third Count, Part 1* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the right hand on the socket of the bayonet viewed at (c) from the left flank.

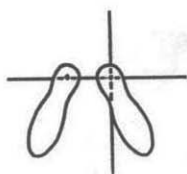
Third Count, Part 2 (*Draw Bayonet*) Figure 8-63

1. Draw the bayonet from the scabbard.
2. Turn the point of the blade up after it clears the scabbard.
3. Carry the end of the bayonet socket about one inch over the muzzle (Figure 8-63c), the:
 - a. Bridge of the notch of the socket to the front.
 - b. Axis of the socket aligned with the axis of the barrel.
4. Fix the eyes on the muzzle.



a

b



c

Fig. 8-63 Position of *Fix, Bayonet, Third Count, Part 2* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of bayonet socket over the muzzle viewed at (c) from the left flank.

Third Count, Part 3 (*Engage Notch*) Figure 8-64

1. Thrust the socket down over the muzzle until the sight strikes the end of the first longitudinal slot, taking care to avoid pinching the heel of the hand between the sight and the mortise.



Fig. 8-64 Position of *Fix, Bayonet, Third Count, Part 3* from *Shoulder, Firelock* showing the bayonet socket thrust down to the end of the first longitudinal slot viewed from the left flank.

Third Count, Part 4 (*Turn Bayonet*) Figure 8-65

1. Turn the bayonet to the left until the sight strikes the end of the transverse slot of the mortise.



Fig. 8-65 Position of *Fix, Bayonet, Third Count, Part 4* from *Shoulder, Firelock* showing the bayonet socket turned to the left to the end of the transverse slot viewed from the left flank.

Third Count, Part 5 (*Seat Bayonet*) Figure 8-66

1. Press down on the shank of the bayonet with the thumb until the sight strikes the end of the second longitudinal slot of the mortise. (Figure 8-66c)



Fig. 8-66 Position of *Fix, Bayonet, Third Count, Part 5* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the bayonet socket thrust down to the end of the second longitudinal slot viewed at (c) from the left flank.

Third Count, Part 6 (*Press to Shoulder*) Figure 8-67

1. Slip the right hand down immediately on the front of the barrel just below the fore-end of the stock, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. Fingers extended and joined.
 - c. Right elbow down.
2. Look to the right and place the left eye over the enter of the body.
3. Press the piece against the shoulder, the barrel vertical.

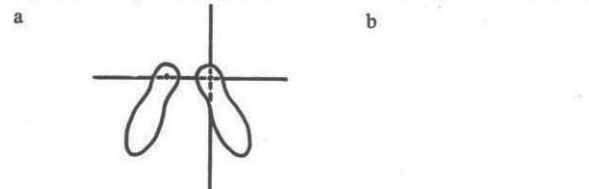
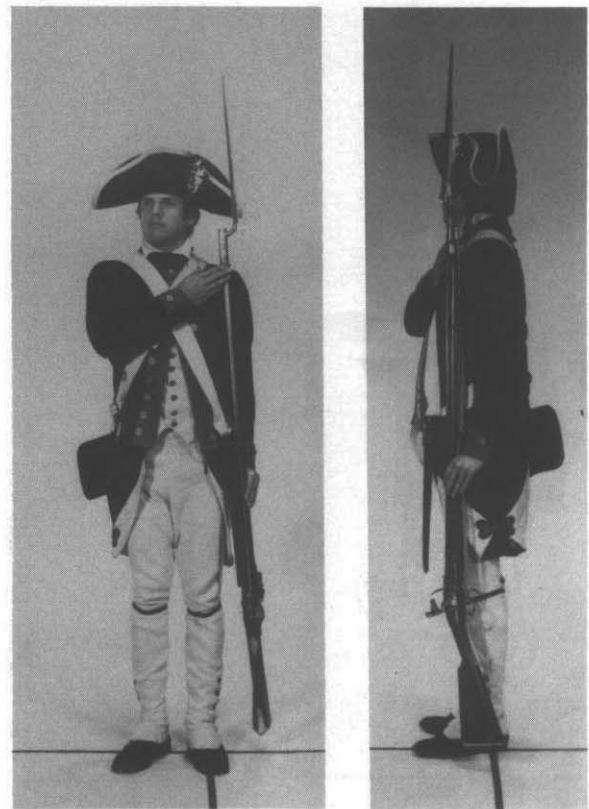


Fig. 8-67 Position of *Fix, Bayonet, Third Count, Part 6* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT FIXED BAYONET, To Shoulder Firelock:

XXI. *Shoulder* — FIRELOCK! (Three Counts)

First Count (*Raise Piece*) Figure 8-68

1. Let go the piece with the right hand.
2. At the same time, raise the piece briskly with the left hand about four inches before the left shoulder, the:
 - a. Left hand as high as the chin.
 - b. Left forearm against the piece.
 - c. Barrel to the front.
3. Open the left hand and regrasp the stock immediately at the swell, the:
 - a. Thumb pointed upward and bearing on the sling.
 - b. Fingers around the barrel.
 - c. Knuckles to the front.
4. At the same time, place the right hand under the cock, the:
 - a. First joint of the forefinger under the comb of the cock.
 - b. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointed upward.
 - c. Fingers extended and joined.
 - d. Back of the hand to the front.

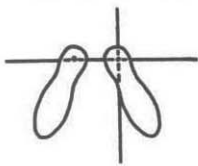
Second Count (*Grasp Butt*) Figure 8-69

1. Quit the piece with the left hand bringing it down hard on the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger before the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.
 - c. Left elbow back.
2. Press the piece against the left shoulder with the right hand.



a

b



a

b

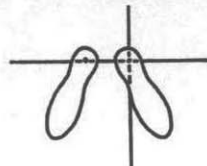


Fig. 8-68 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, First Count* from *Fix, Bayonet* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 8-69 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Second Count* from *Fix, Bayonet* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Third Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 8-70

1. Drop the right hand quickly to the side, the palm toward the thigh.



a



b

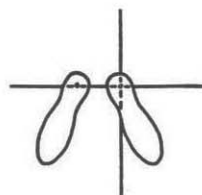


Fig. 8-70 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Third Count* from *Fix, Bayonet* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Present Arms:

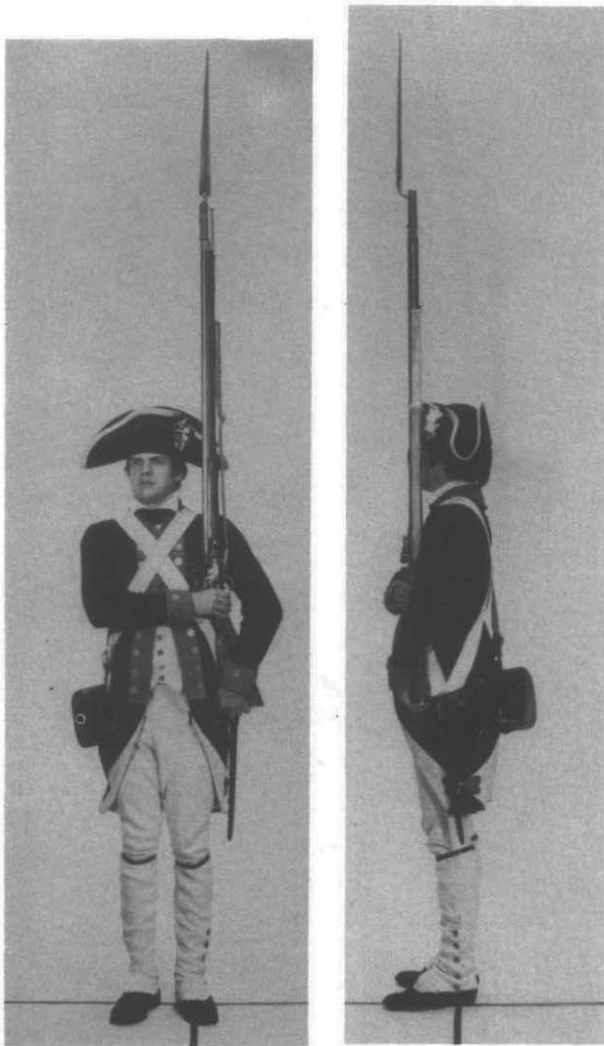
XXII. Present — ARMS! (Three Counts)

First Count (*Turn Piece*) Figure 8-71

1. Turn the piece briskly to the right with the left hand, the:
 - a. Lock to the front.
 - b. Cock touching the left breast.
 - c. Left elbow turned out slightly.
2. At the same time, grasp the small of the stock just below the cock with the right hand, the:
 - a. Fingers joined and across the lock plate.
 - b. Forefinger under and against the guard.
 - c. Cock resting on the top of the hand.
 - d. Thumb on the sideplate and against the body.
3. Pull the butt to the left slightly with the left hand to keep the barrel vertical as observed from the front.

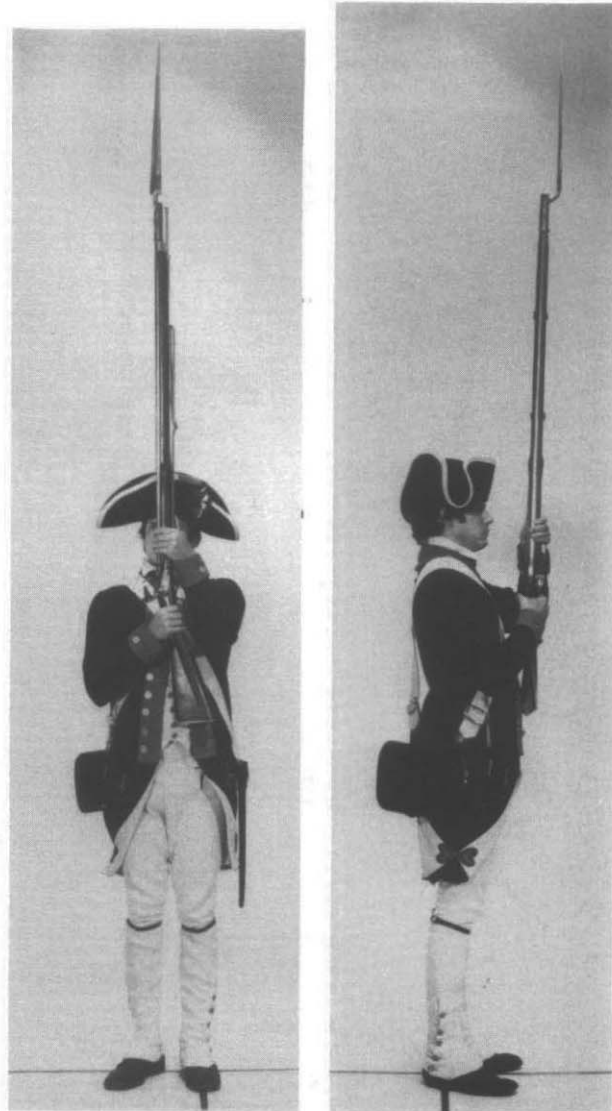
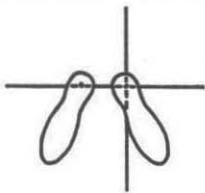
Second Count (*Poise Piece*) Figure 8-72

1. Raise the piece with the right hand, the:
 - a. Lock to the front
 - b. Barrel vertical and before the center of the body.
2. At the same time, let go the butt and grasp the stock and sling above the lock with the left hand, the:
 - a. Little finger resting on top of the bend of the feather spring.
 - b. Forefinger at the height of eyes.
 - c. Thumb upright along the stock.
3. Hold the elbows down without constraint.



a

b



a

b

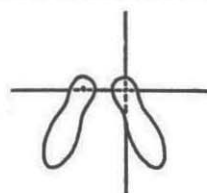


Fig. 8-71 Position of *Present Arms, First Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 8-72 Position of *Present Arms, Second Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Third Count (*Present Piece*) Figure 8-73

1. Step back briskly with the right foot about four inches directly to the rear, the:
 - a. Right knee straight.
 - b. Left knee bent slightly.
2. At the same time, lower the piece as quickly as possible before the left knee, the:
 - a. Butt as far down as the right hand will permit without constraint.
 - b. Barrel to the rear.
 - c. Fingers of the right hand extended downward.
 - d. Forefinger of the right hand under the bottom of the guard. (Figure 8-73c)
 - e. Small of the stock in the hollow of the right hand between the forefinger and the thumb.
 - f. Back of the cock bearing on the right hand.
3. At the same time, let go the piece with the left hand and seize it instantly just below the tail pipe (Figure 8-73d), the:
 - a. Fingers over the sling.
 - b. Thumb pointed upward along the stock.
 - c. Left forearm horizontal.
4. Draw the left hand in until the barrel is vertical.



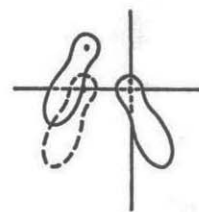
c



a



b



d

Fig. 8-73 Position of *Present, Arms, Third Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the small of the stock viewed at (c) from the right flank. Position of the left hand below the swell of the stock viewed at (d) from the front.

BEING AT PRESENTED ARMS, To Shoulder Firelock:

XXIII. *Shoulder* — FIRELOCK! (Two Counts)

First Count (*Shoulder Piece*) Figure 8-74

1. Bring up the right foot and place it alongside the left, the:
 - a. Right heel two inches to the right of the left heel.
 - b. Right toe turned outward so the included angle between the feet is about 60 degrees.
2. Grasp the piece at the small of the stock with the right hand.
3. At the same time, let go the piece with the left hand.
4. Turn the piece to the left with the right hand and place it against the hollow of the left shoulder, the barrel to the front.
5. Bring the left hand down hard on the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger before the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.

6. Regrasp the piece with the right hand, the:
 - a. First joint of the forefinger touching the back of the comb of the cock.
 - b. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointing upward.
 - c. Fingers extended, joined and pressed against the small of the stock.

Second Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 8-75

1. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm toward the thigh.

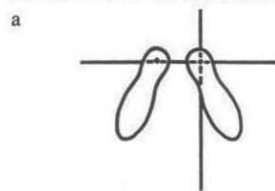
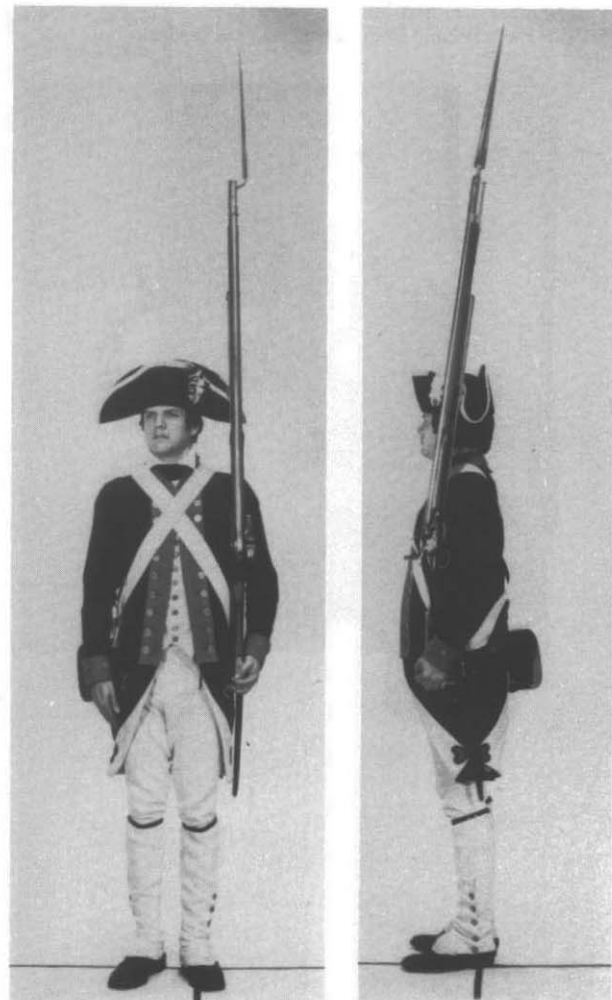
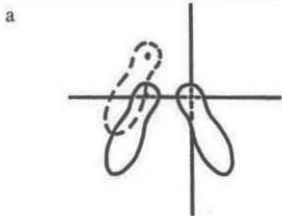
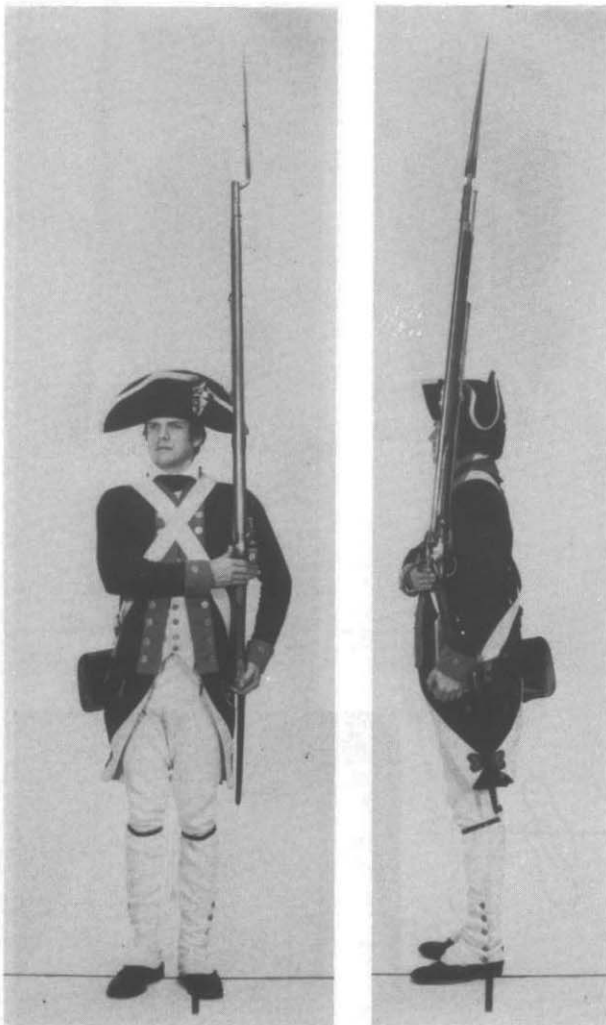


Fig. 8-74 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, First Count* from *Present Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 8-75 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Second Count* from *Present Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Charge Bayonet:

XXIV. *Charge* — *BAYONET!* (Two Counts)

First Count (*Support Cock*) Figure 8-76

1. Bring up the right hand smartly and place it under the cock, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. First joint of the forefinger touching the comb of the cock.
 - c. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointing upwards.

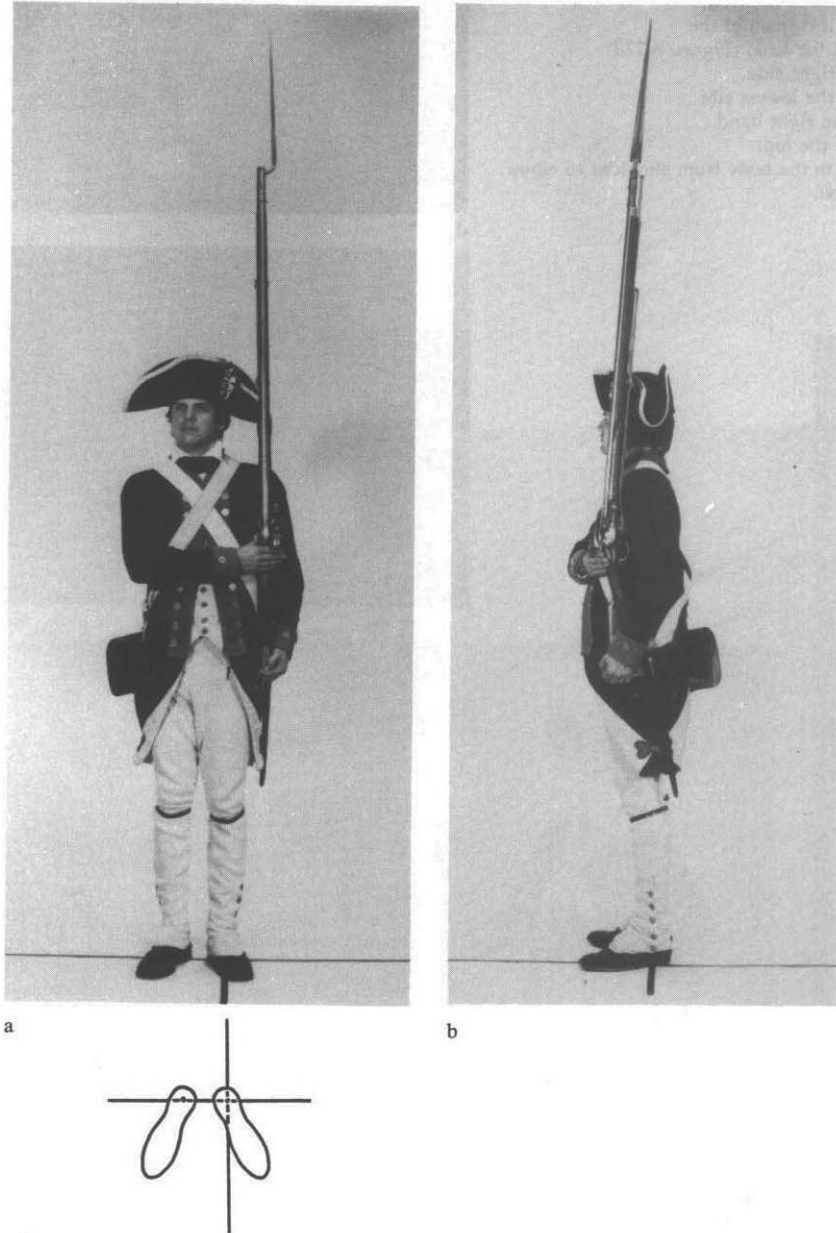


Fig. 8-76 Position of *Charge, Bayonet, First Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Charge Piece as Front Rank*)

Figure 8-77

1. Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand.
2. Let go the butt with the left hand.
3. Carry the piece with the right hand to the right side.
4. Pull up on the small of the stock briskly with the right hand and let the stock fall smartly into the palm of the left hand (Figure 8-77c) just as the piece falls to the level, the:
 - a. Left hand at the swell.
 - b. Left thumb lying along the stock and pointed forward.
 - c. Muzzle pointed directly to the front.
 - d. Right hand grasping the small of the stock strongly behind the lock. (Figure 8-77d)
 - e. Piece pressed to the right side.
 - f. Right thumb against the lowest rib.
 - g. Last two fingers of the right hand bearing on the top of the hip.
5. Press the left arm close to the body from shoulder to elbow.
6. Hold the barrel horizontal.
7. Do not move the feet.

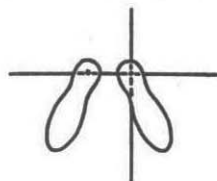
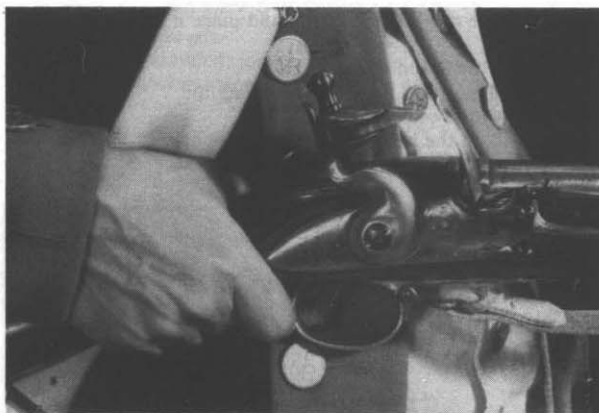
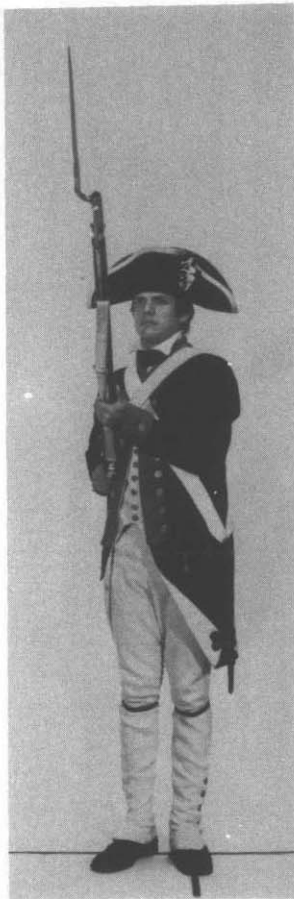


Fig. 8-77 Position of *Charge, Bayonet (As Front Rank), Second Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the left hand at the swell viewed at (c) from the left flank. Position of the right hand on the small of the stock viewed at (d) from the right flank.

Second Count (*Charge Piece as Rear Rank*) [30]

Figure 8-78

1. Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand.
2. Let go the butt with the left hand.
3. Carry the piece with the right hand to the right side.
4. Pull up on the small of the stock briskly with the right hand and let the stock fall smartly into the palm of the left hand at a height where the muzzle clears the hat of the man in the front rank, the:
 - a. Left hand at the swell.
 - b. Left thumb lying along the stock and pointed forward.
 - c. Muzzle pointed directly to the front.
 - d. Right hand grasping the small of the stock strongly behind the lock.
 - e. Piece pressed to the right side.
 - f. Right thumb against the lowest rib.
 - g. Last two fingers of the right hand bearing on the top of the hip.
5. Press the left arm close to the body from shoulder to elbow.
6. Do not move the feet.



a



b

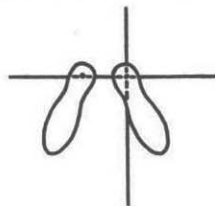


Fig. 8-78 Position of *Charge, Bayonet (As Rear Rank), Second Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING AT CHARGED BAYONET, To Shoulder Firelock:

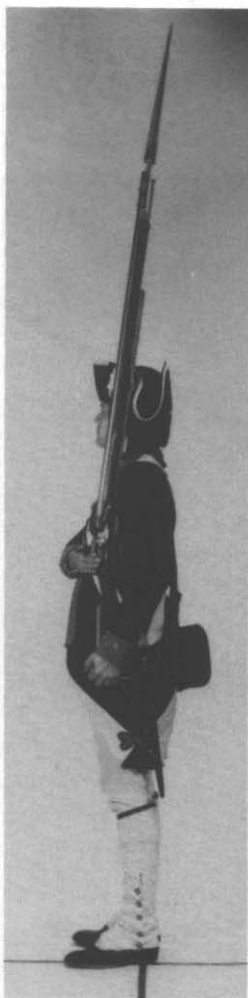
XXV. *Shoulder* — *FIRELOCK!* (Two Counts)

First Count (*Shoulder Piece*) Figure 8-79

1. Raise the piece to a vertical position before the left shoulder by:
 - a. Pulling up with the left hand at the swell of the stock.
 - b. Pushing down with the right hand at the small of the stock.
 - c. Turning the barrel to the front with the right hand.
2. Let go the swell of the stock with the left hand and bring it down hard on the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger over the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.
3. Place the right hand under the cock, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. First joint of the forefinger touching the comb of the cock.
 - c. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointed upward.
 - d. Fingers extended and joined.

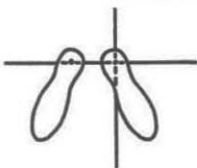
Second Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 8-80

1. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm toward the thigh.



a

b



a

b

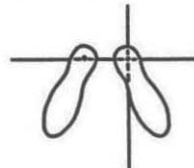


Fig. 8-79 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, First Count* from *Charge, Bayonet* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank,

Fig. 8-80 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Second Count* from *Charge, Bayonet* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Advance Arms:
XXVI. Advance — ARMS! (Two Counts)

First Count (*Turn Piece*) Figure 8-81

1. Turn the piece briskly to the right with the left hand, the:
 - a. Lock to the front.
 - b. Cock touching the left breast.
 - c. Left elbow turned out slightly.
2. At the same time, grasp the small of the stock just below the cock with the right hand, the:
 - a. Fingers joined and across the lock plate.
 - b. Forefinger under and against the guard.
 - c. Cock resting on the top of the hand.
 - d. Thumb on the side plate and against the body.
3. Pull the butt to the left slightly with the left hand to keep the barrel vertical as observed from the front.

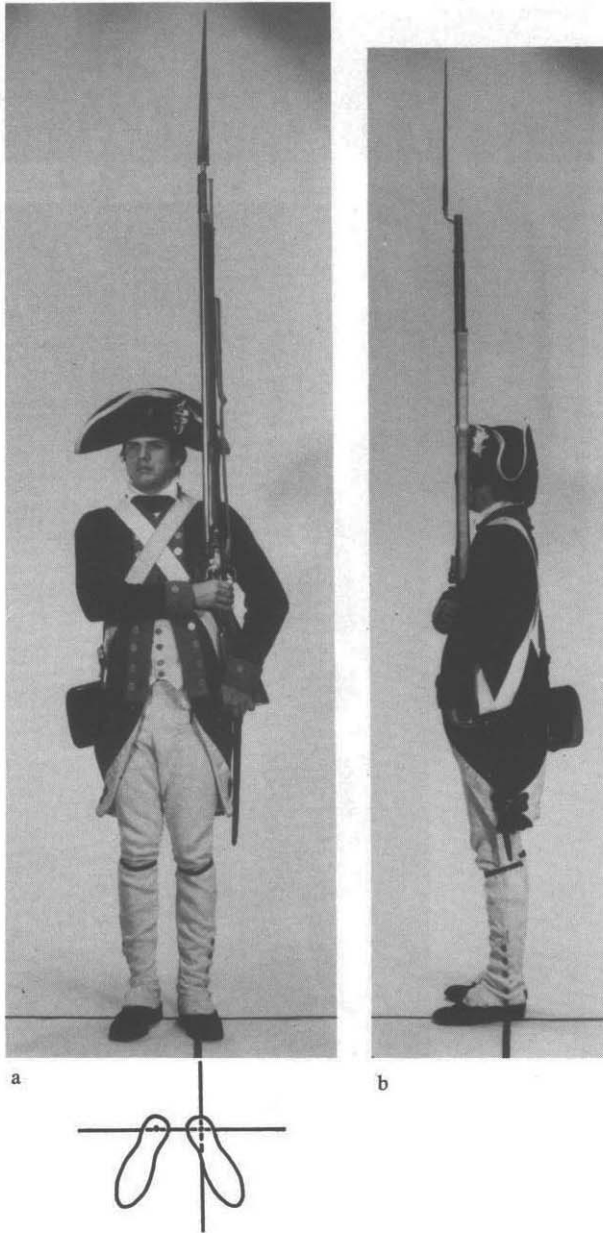


Fig. 8-81 Position of Advance, Arms, First Count from Shoulder, Firelock viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Poise Piece*) Figure 8-82

1. Raise the piece with the right hand, the:
 - a. Lock to the front.
 - b. Barrel vertical and before the center of the body.
2. At the same time, let go the butt and grasp the stock and sling above the lock with the left hand, the:
 - a. Little finger resting on top of the bend of the feather spring.
 - b. Forefinger at the height of the eyes.
 - c. Thumb upright along the stock.
3. Hold the elbows down without constraint.

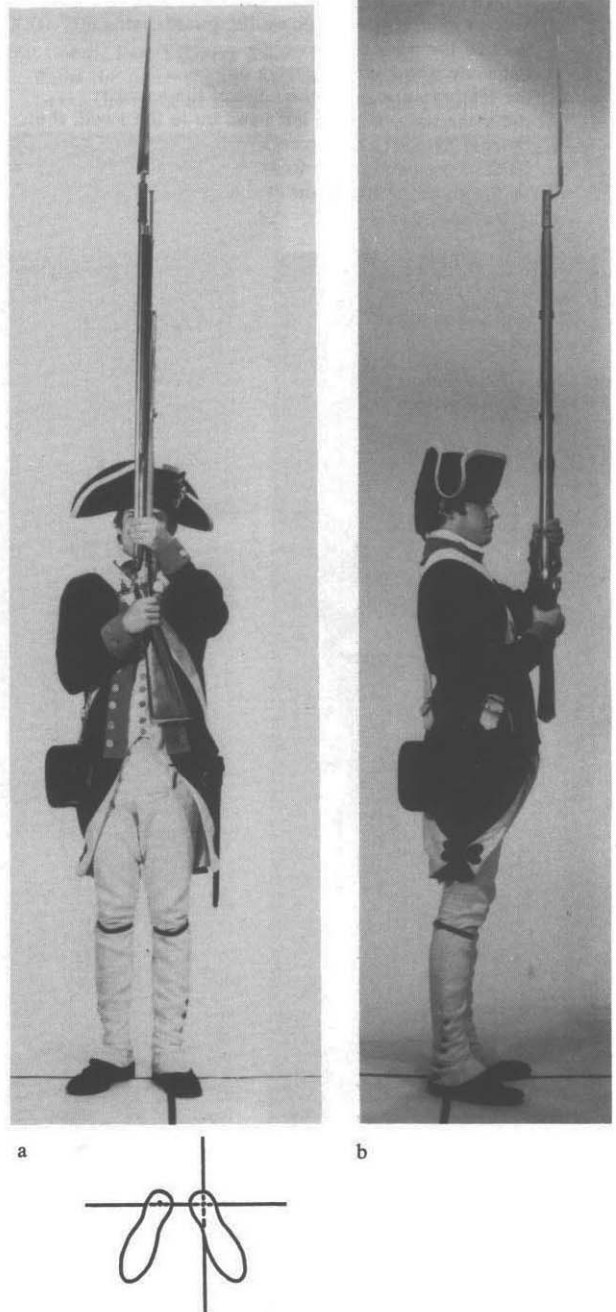


Fig. 8-82 Position of Advance, Arms, Second Count from Shoulder, Firelock viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

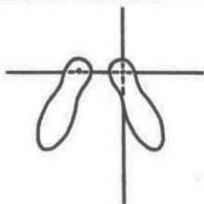
Third Count (*Carry to Right Side*) Figure 8-83

1. Carry the piece smartly to the right side with both hands, the:
 - a. Barrel to the rear.
 - b. Right hand as low as possible without stiffness.
 - c. Lower side of the guard resting on the first joint of the forefinger of the right hand. (Figure 8-83c)
2. At the same time, withdraw the:
 - a. Thumb from under the cock and place it above the guard.
 - b. Last three fingers from under the guard and place them under the cock.
3. Support the piece chiefly on the forefinger and little finger of the right hand (Figure 8-83d), the:
 - a. Small of the stock between the forefinger and the middle finger.
 - b. Second joint of the thumb on the guard.
 - c. Back of the hand to the right.
 - d. Palm, near the wrist, bearing on the feather spring and the edge of the hammer.
4. At the same time, slip the left hand up to the swell, the:
 - a. Fingers extended and joined.
 - b. Back of the hand to the front.
5. Press the piece to the hollow of the right shoulder.

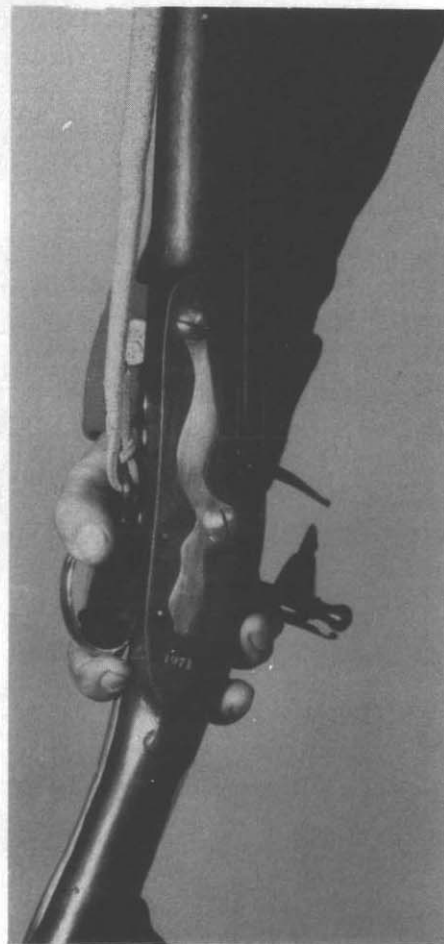


a

b



c



d

Fig. 8-83 Position of *Advance, Arms, Third Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the thumb and forefinger of the right hand embracing the guard and the fingers supporting the cock at (c) viewed from the right flank and at (d) from the left flank.

Fourth Count (*Drop Left Hand*) Figure 8-84

1. Drop the left hand to the side, palm toward the thigh.

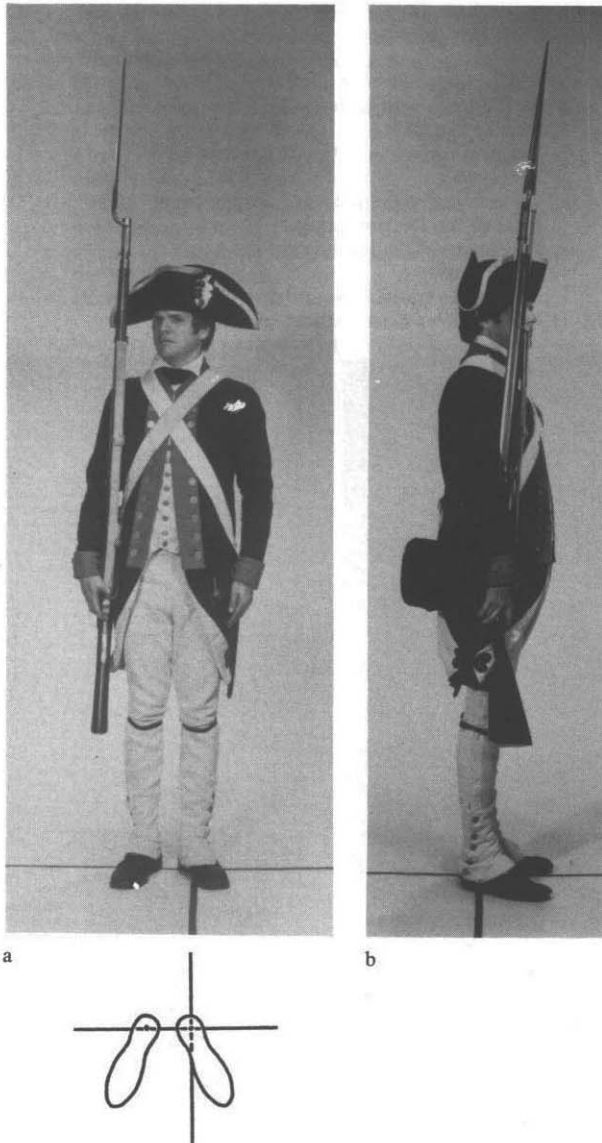


Fig. 8-84 Position of *Advance, Arms, Fourth Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING AT ADVANCED ARMS, To Shoulder Firelock:
XXVII. *Shoulder* — *FIRELOCK!* (Four Counts)

First Count, Part 1 (*Grasp Swell*) Figure 8-85

1. Raise the piece slightly with the right hand.
2. Grasp the piece at the swell with the left hand.



Fig. 8-85 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, First Count, Part 1* from *Advance, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

First Count, Part 2 (*Grasp Small*) Figure 8-86

1. Regrasp the small of the stock with the right hand (Figure 8-86c), the:
 - a. Thumb under the cock.
 - b. Guard resting on the forefinger.
 - c. Remaining fingers on the front of the small of the stock under the forefinger.

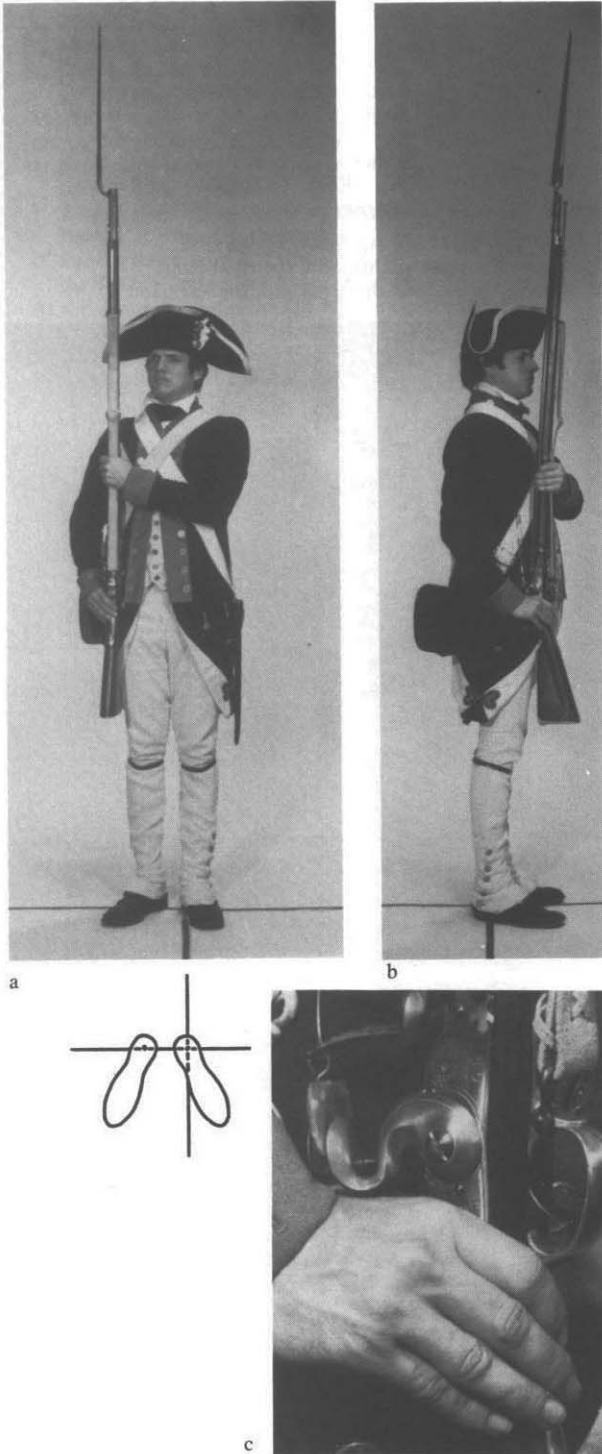


Fig. 8-86 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, First Count, Part 2* from *Advance, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand at the small of the stock viewed at (c) from the right flank.

Second Count (*Poise Piece*) Figure 8-87

1. Raise the piece with both hands, the:
 - a. Lock to the front.
 - b. Barrel vertical and before the center of the body.
 - c. Little finger of the left hand resting on the bend of the feather spring.
 - d. Forefinger of the left hand at the height of the eyes.
 - e. Left thumb upright along the stock.
2. Hold the elbows down without constraint.

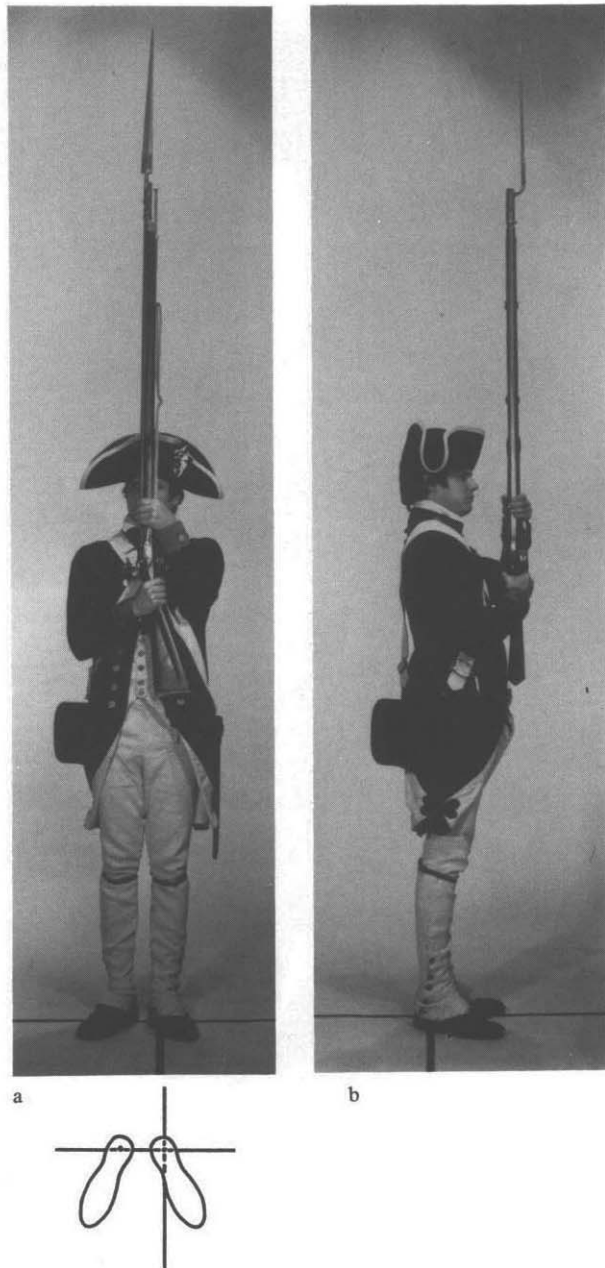


Fig. 8-87 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Second Count* from *Advance, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Third Count (*Shoulder Piece*) Figure 8-88

1. Let go the piece with the left hand.
2. Turn the piece to the left with the right hand and place it against the hollow of the left shoulder, the barrel to the front.
3. Bring the left hand down hard on the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger before the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.
4. Regrasp the piece with the right hand, the:
 - a. First joint of the forefinger touching the back of the comb of the cock.
 - b. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointing upward.
 - c. Finger extended, joined, and pressed against the small of the stock.
 - d. Back of the hand to the front.

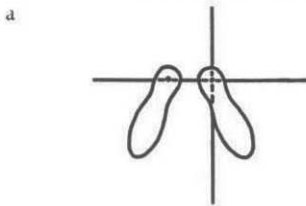
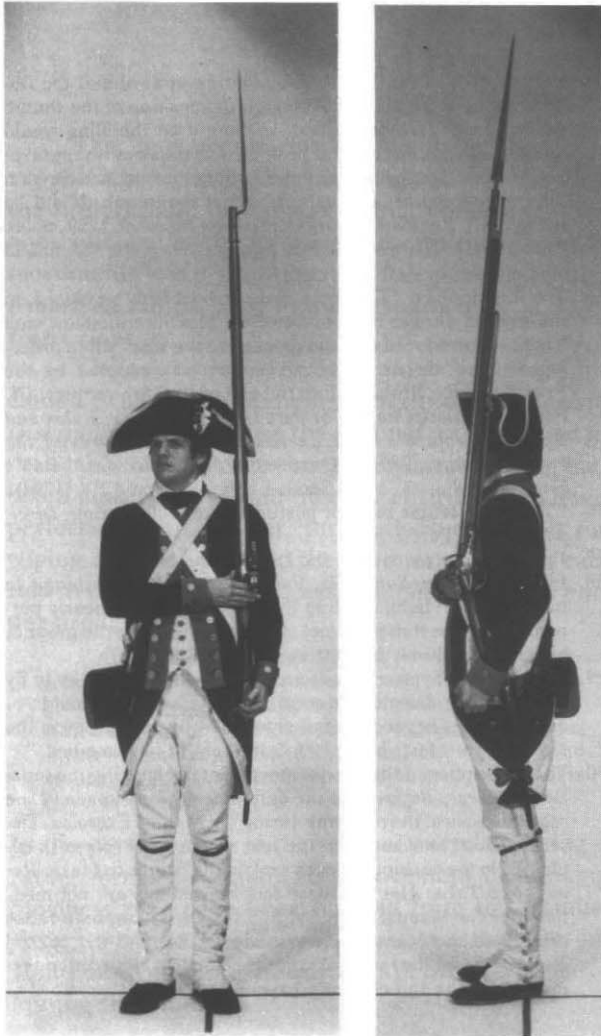


Fig. 8-88 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Third Count* from *Advance, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fourth Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 8-89

1. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm toward the thigh.

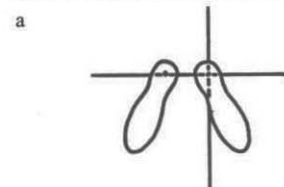
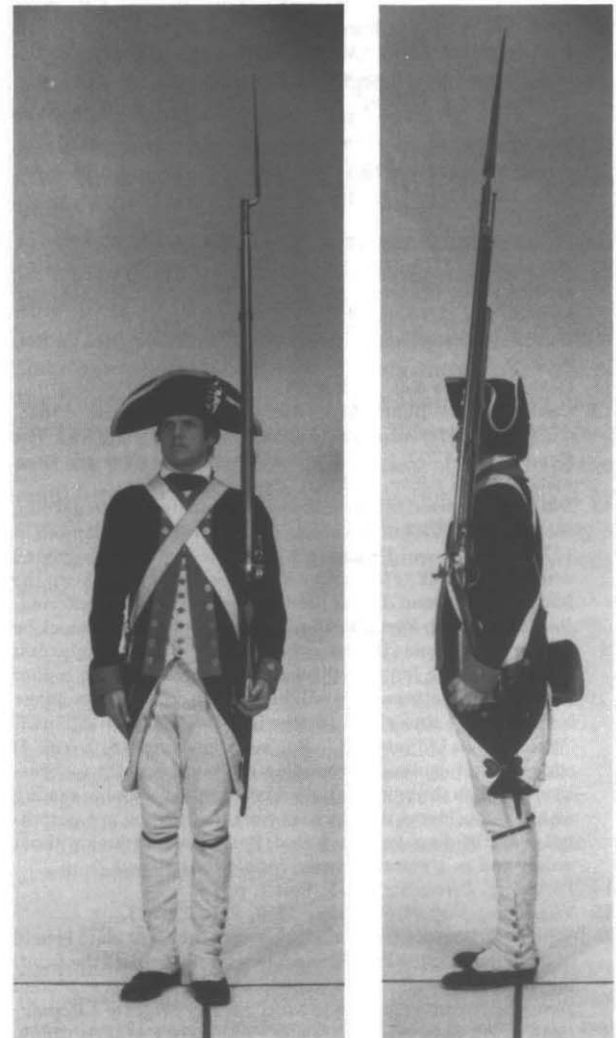


Fig. 8-89 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Fourth Count* from *Advance Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

THE MANUAL EXERCISE FOR THE RANKS

1. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 13.
2. "Treatise of Military Affairs," *The New Royal Encyclopaedia*, London: ca. 1795-1801, Section VIII, Commands II, IV, V, and VIII.
3. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Plate 1, Figure 5.
4. The *Regulations*, 1779, say to "Bring your right hand short round to your pouch," which may be better described by the U.S. Department of War, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of Infantry* 1815, p. 23: "apply the right hand to the cartridge-box by drawing back the right elbow, and passing the hand between the butt and body; and open the cartridge box." These latter directions are a direct quote from the French Regulations of 1791, as translated by Lieutenant Colonel MacDonald of the British Army and republished in the United States by Colonel Lacroix of the French Army in 1810. Cf. Colonel Irene Amelot De Lacroix, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise, and Manoeuvres of the French Infantry, Issued August 1, 1791*, Boston: T.B. Wait, 1810, Vol. 1. These French regulations were copied by the Board of Officers under Major General Scott to become the United States Regulations of 1815.
5. *Regulations*, 1815, *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*
7. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 17, "... the elbow a little turned up." William Duane, *Handbook for Infantry*, Philadelphia, 1814, Plate 4. Baxter, *Volunteer's Manual*, 1861, p. 46, Figure 77.
8. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, *Ibid.*
9. *Regulations*, 1815, *Ibid.* This movement of the head is also described in the French Regulations of 1791 and in the *Ordonnance du Roi*, 1766, p. 64.
10. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 17. *Ordonnance du Roi*, 1766, p. 64.
11. *Ordonnance du Roi*, 1766, p. 64.
12. Contracted to "'Bout!" in the British Manual Exercise of 1828. Cf. Mitchell, *Her Majesty's Regulations*, 1828, Plate XXI. The *Regulations*, 1779, p. 28, state that "when the pans are shut, make a small pause, and cast about together."
13. During this period the contemporary manuals differ regarding the position of the butt in casting about. The French manuals of 1775 and 1766 and Pickering's place the butt on the ground while the Norfolk, 1764, and von Steuben's manuals keep the butt off the ground during the loading operations. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 18 recognized that: "If a firelock be long in proportion to the man who uses it, the butt must be cast further from the left toe, till the muzzle is at most no higher than the chin; otherwise it will be difficult for him to manage his rammer." Russell's "Instructions for Drill" in 1803 (Cf. "Battalion in Military Art," Ree's *Cyclopaedia*, 1810, Vol. 4) adds another caution if grounding the butt becomes a necessity: "though the butts are not to come to the ground in casting about, as accidents may happen from it, yet they are permitted, while loading, to be so rested; but it must be done without noise, and in a manner imperceptible in the front."
14. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 18.
15. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline* 1759, Part I, p. 13.
16. When a dummy, or no, cartridge is used, the right hand is held as described in Step 2a. of this count with the palm to the front, the fingers extended and joined, and the thumb extended along the barrel, according to Mitchell, *Her Majesty's Regulations*, 1829, Plate XXI and Baxter, *Volunteer's Manual*, 1861, p.46, Figure 78.
17. The elbow elevated square to the body is shown in the plate of the Manual Exercise for Command IX, "Charge with Cartridge!" in post-1800 Boston editions of the *Regulations*, 1779; "Treatise of Military Affairs," Hall's *Encyclopaedia*, ca. 1800, Plate 3; Duane, *Handbook for Infantry* 1814, Plate 5; and Mitchell, *Her Majesty's Regulations*, 1828, Plate XXI.
18. The position of the fingers in catching the rammer backhanded is not specified in the *Regulations*. The plate of the Manual Exercise for Command X, "Draw Rammer," in the post-1800 editions of the *Regulations*, 1779 shows the fingers curled around the rammer in imitation of the 1791 British Command X, "Draw your Rammer" of Plate 3 of Hall's *Encyclopaedia*, *loc. cit.* However, the 1794 British Command V, "Draw Ram Rod," Plate 6 of Hall's *Encyclopaedia*, *loc. cit.* shows the hand open with the fingers joined and extended. The latter hand position is also shown in Plate 6 of Duane's *Handbook for Infantry*, *loc. cit.* The open hand position is illustrated in Figure 8-24 of this work.
19. Mitchell, *Regulations*, 1828, Plate XXII, "Ram Down Cartridge," Figures 3 and 4. Col. E.E. Ellsworth, "Light Infantry Drill," Baxter, *Volunteer's Manual*, 1861, p. 17.
20. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 14.
21. *Ibid.*, p. 19. "When exercising without cartridges, the steel rammer being with one stroke driven down against the breech pin, will rebound so you can catch it (backhanded) by the middle at the muzzle: then instantly clearing it of the barrel, return it."
22. *Ibid.*, Part I, p. 19.
23. *Ibid.*, Part I, p. 14.
24. *Ibid.*, Part I, p. 19; "the thumb pointing upward and the fingers clasping the piece." Although the position of the thumb on the sling is not prescribed, keeping it on the sling would seem to be the most natural position and requires no regripping from the grip held during the loading movements. Several other contemporary manuals state that the thumb should be upright. Cf. *Regulations for the Prussian Infantry*, 1759, p. 38, Command XXVII; *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, p. 19, Command VI.
25. The *Regulations*, 1779 imply that the butt is to be placed on the ground on one motion, however, this intermediate step has been introduced to avoid damage to the stock when ordering on hard surfaces. The precaution was adopted by the French and the British before the end of the 18th century. Cf. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 30; Lacroix, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise, and Manoeuvres of the French Infantry, 1791*; "Treatise on Military Affairs," Hall's *Encyclopaedia*, ca. 1800, Section VIII, Command XV (1794).
26. "To see the feugle man, or posture maker." Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 31.
27. Probably to avoid soiling the knee on the ground.
28. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 31: "If you attempt to turn the barrel behind before the firelock is raised nearly perpendicular, the thin part [toe] of the butt will strike the ground, and thereby throw the butt away from its place."
29. *Ibid.* p. 26: "If your ramrods are so loose in the pipes as to fly out in coming down to the secure, your left thumb should . . . be placed just beyond the tail pipe, so as by bearing upon the rod to keep it fast; but this defect ought to be remedied."
30. The description of the special movement of elevating the muzzle at *Charge, Bayonet!* is the only time notice is made of the requirements of the rear rank during the Manual Exercise. The other special movements of the rear rank are the footwork explained in the positions of each rank in the firings to *Make, Ready!* and *Take, Aim!* As these foot movements are not mentioned in the Manual Exercise, it is suspected that both ranks performed the Manual Exercise identically, and the special movements for the rear rank were used only at close order during the firings and charging bayonet.

Chapter IX

ADDITIONAL MOVEMENTS OF THE FIRELOCK

The movements for unfixing the bayonet; supporting, easing, carrying, sloping, and trailing the firelock; and facing and resting under arms are not explained in the *Regulations* even though these movements were traditional in foreign armies and American militia prior to the Revolution.

Unfix Bayonet

The movement of unfixing the bayonet was included twice in the Manual Exercise of the *Norfolk Discipline*. The first time the bayonet was returned to the scabbard under the condition where no firing had taken place. The second time, after firings had been performed with powder, instructions are given for wiping clean the pan and the bayonet with a rag carried in the pouch. The necessity for cleaning was emphasized;

After performing the firings with powder, it will be absolutely necessary to take particular care, that the bayonets are wiped very clean; and not to suffer them to be returned, whilst any dirt or soil of the powder remains upon them, which will not only cause them to rust, but also spoil the scabbards, so as to render it impossible to keep the bayonets clean as ever after. [1]

In the performance of the manual exercise, being a rather formal procedure, the movement of unfixing bayonets may have been omitted from the Manual Exercise of the *Regulations* to avoid either the unsightliness of wiping the bayonets or the mischance of fouling the scabbards.

Support Arms

Support, Arms! is mentioned several times in the *Regulations*: during the evolutions; entering camp, the parade of guards, and the relieving of sentinels. [2] The earliest description of the position of support for the American arms are the figures shown in the 1798 "Take Notice" recruiting poster (Figure 4-7) and the plate of the manual exercise included in the *Regulations* after 1800 (Figure 4-8). As the figures in these plates appear to have been almost exact co-

pies of portions of the six plates included in Hall's *New Royal Encyclopaedia*, and because of the previously noted discrepancies in these latter plates, their own accompanying text, and errors in the American plates, an examination of the development of this movement is made to attempt to determine the basis for the position for *Support, Arms* for the illustration appearing in the *Regulations*.

The figure in the plate of the Manual Exercise of the *Regulations* for *Support, Arms* shows the cock of the firelock resting on the left forearm, the right hand grasping the small of the stock under the left elbow, and the palm of the left hand resting on the top of the right forearm. This is the same position prescribed by the *Norfolk Discipline* [3] in 1759 and in Pickering's *Discipline* [4] in 1775. Cuthbertson in 1768 voices some objections to this position:

The usual method of supporting the firelock by bringing both arms across the breast, counteracts the pains which should be taken for giving a graceful carriage to a Soldier; as by it the shoulders are absolutely forced forward, instead of being the reverse, and which may be the case, if the French method of supporting be adopted, by resting the cock of the firelock upon the cuff of the left sleeve, and hanging the right hand down the thigh: the Soldier in this position is far more easy than in the other, because more free and unrestrained, by having one hand quite disengaged, no person will dispute it after trying both. [5]

The instructions for this "occasional" word of command described in the British *Manual Exercise* of 1764 [6] and the plates for the British 1791 manual exercise [7] carry no figures for *Support, Arms*, but agree with the plates showing the manual exercise as performed in 1794 [8] and display the movement completed in the style of the French drill of 1755 with the left forearm horizontal and the right arm down the side. The palm of the left hand is placed against the body with the fingers curled inward instead of being inserted inside the coat according to the French manual. The major difference between the early British

Table 9-1
Chronology of Support Arms

Period	Nation	Left Forearm	Right Forearm	Remarks
1755	France [1]	Horizontal	At side	Left hand in coat.
1759	England [2]	Horizontal	Horizontal	Left palm on right arm.
1764	England [3]	Horizontal	At side	Left Palm to body.
1766	France [4]	Diagonal	At side	Left palm on breast.
1768	England [5]	Horizontal	Horizontal	Recommends right hand at side.
1775	American [6]	Horizontal	Horizontal	
1779	U.S. [7]	Horizontal	Horizontal	Left palm on right arm.
1791	France [8]	Diagonal	At side	Left palm on breast.
1794	England [9]	Horizontal	At side	Left palm to body.
1803	England [10]	Horizontal	At side	Left palm on right arm. May grasp small of stock when at ease or marching any distance. Must drop right hand when halted or dressing by the right.
1807	U.S. [11]	Diagonal	At side	Right palm on breast.
1812	U.S. [12]	Horizontal	Horizontal	Right palm on right arm for "parade." On a march the right hand can be at side.
1814	U.S. [13]	Horizontal	Horizontal	Right palm on right arm.
1815	U.S. [14]	Diagonal	At side	Right palm on breast.
1821	U.S. [15]	Horizontal	At side	Right palm to body. Right hand at side or small of stock when marching.
1824	U.S. [16]	Diagonal	At side	Right palm on breast. Right hand at side or small of stock when marching.
1828	England [17]	Horizontal	At side	Right palm to body.
1835	U.S. [18]	Horizontal	At side	Right palm on breast.

Notes: [1] *Ordonnance du Roy, 1755*, Figure 53. [2] Windham, *Norfolk Discipline, 1759*, Part I, p. 21. [3] *The Manual Exercise, 1764*, Philadelphia: R. Aitken, 1775, p.27. [4] *Ordonnance du Roi, 1776*, Figure 35. [5] Cuthbertson, *System for the Management of a Battalion, 1768*, p. 172. [6] Pickering, *Discipline, 1775*, Part I, pp. 27-28. [7] *Regulations, 1779*, Figure for *Support, Arms!* in post-1800 editions for the *Manual Exercise*. [8] Lacroix, *Rules and Regulations . . . for the French Infantry, 1791, 1810*, Vol. 1, p. 37. [9] "Treatise on Military Affairs," *New Royal Encyclopaedia*, London, ca. 1795-1801, Section VIII. [10] "Battalion, in the Military Art," *Cyclopaedia*, ed. by Rees, Philadelphia: ca. 1810, Vol. 4, containing *Russell's Instructions for the Drill*, London: 1803. [11] Duane, *System of Discipline and Management for Infantry, 1807*, translated from the French "Authority of 1805." [12] U.S. War Dept., *Regulations for the Field Exercise, Maneuvers and Conduct of Infantry, 1812*, p. 12. [13] Duane, *Handbook for Infantry, 1814*. [14] U.S. War Dept., *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of Infantry, 1815*, p. 35. [15] Darrow, *Scott's Militia Tactics, 1821*, pp. 35-36. [16] Nesmith, *The Soldier's Manual, 1824*, p. 40. [17] Mitchell, *His Majesty's Regulations, 1828*, Plate XIV. [18] Scott, *Infantry Tactics, 1861*, p. 41.

and American regulations for support arms and those of the early French and post-war British appears to be the position of the left arm. The chronology of the variations of this movement from the middle of the 18th century to the end of the flintlock era is shown in Table 9-1. This chronology shows that the left arm is held horizontally in the British service from 1759 and until at least 1828 and in the American service from 1775 until 1814. The diagonal position of the left arm, beginning with the French in 1755, does not come into the American drill regulations until the introduction in 1815 of the French drill of 1791 by General Scott. [9] The individual movements of the manual exercise of the Regulations of 1812 appear to be very similar to those of von Steuben's *Regulations*, but additional positions are described, including the support. *Support, Arms* in the Regulations of 1812 is identical to

that of the post-1800 plate for the *Regulations* of 1779, but allows the optional position of marching with the right hand by the side. The position for *support* in this work is shown, therefore, with both arms horizontal for parade and with the right hand by the side when standing at ease or marching in column.

Carry Arms

The command, "Carry your Arms!" was used in the *Norfolk Discipline* [10] to resume the position of *Shoulder, Firelock!* from *Support, Arms!* The simplified command, "Carry, Arms!" was employed in the *Regulations* for the same purpose and the specific command is mentioned twice. [11] Under both conditions the command is given to a marching column to reestablish the proper interval between files, as there is a tendency to lose the normal inter-

Table 9-2
Chronology of Right About Face

Period	Nation	Firelock	Right Hand	Remarks
1740	England[1]	At Recover	On piece	
1755	France[2]	At Shoulder	On cartridge box	
1759	England[3]	At Rest	On piece	
1759	Prussia[4]	At Shoulder	Not specified	
1764	England[5]	At Recover	On piece	
1766	France[6]	At Shoulder	On cartridge box	
1773	American[7]	At Shoulder	Not specified	
1779	U.S.[8]	At Shoulder	On cartridge box	
1791	France[9]	At Poise	On piece	
1791	England[10]	At Poise	On piece	
1807	U.S.[11]	At Shoulder	On cartridge box	Lock to front.
1812	U.S.[12]	At Shoulder	On cartridge box	Lock to front.

Notes: [1] Bland, *A Treatise on Military Discipline*, 1740, p. 8. [2] *Ordnance du Roy*, 1755, p. 8. [3] Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part I, p. 10. [4] Faucitt, *Regulations for the Prussian Infantry*, 1759, p. 43. [5] *Manual Exercise*, 1764, New York: H. Gaine, 1775, p. 8. [6] *Ordonnance du Roi*, 1766, p. 61. [7] Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, P. 43. [8] *Regulations*, 1779, p. 12. [9] Lacroix, *Rules and Regulations . . . of the French Infantry*, 1791, 1810, p. 13. [10] "Treatise on Military Affairs," *New Royal Encyclopaedia*. London: ca. 1795-1801, Section VIII. [11] Duane, *System and Manoeuvres of Infantry*, 1807, p. 12. [12] U.S. War Dept., *Regulations for the Field Exercise, Manoeuvres, and Conduct of Infantry of the United States*, 1812, p. 6.

val in seeking to retain elbow-to-elbow contact when marching with both arms across the body. In the instructions for relieving guards and sentinels, the *Regulations* instructed the Corporal to march his men at supported arms and, when an officer approaches, he is to order them to "handle their arms" [12] as a mark of respect. This instruction is taken almost verbatim from Cuthbertson where his words, "handle their arms" [13], are found also. The plates of the British manual exercise of 1794 show an intermediate position labled, "*Handle Arms*" (Figure 4-5) in returning to the *carry* from *support*. The regulations of 1812 instruct the Corporal conducting the sentinels to their posts in language identical to those of the *Regulations* with the substitution of "carry arms" [14] for "handle arms." Therefore, the use of the word "handle" has the same meaning as "carry" in these instances and is not to be confused with the use of the command "*Handle your Arms!*" to bring troops to *attention* from the position of *rest* under arms.

Slope Arms

The position of *slope* is described by Pickering [15] and is illustrated in the 1798 recruiting poster, the early plates of the *Regulations*, as well as the regulations of 1812. [16] The movements used in this work follow the instructions of Pickering, allowing the barrel to be canted behind the right shoulder. This mode of carrying the musket on the shoulder is one of the positions of ease allowed on the march. The command selected for returning the piece to *shoulder* is "*Carry, Arms!*" in accordance with the *Regulations* of 1812. [17]

Trail Arms

The *Norfolk Discipline's* "Exercise of the Officers" describes the position of "*Carry your fusee in your right hand!*" [18] whereby the firelock is held near the swell with the right arm extended down the side and the barrel slanting upward. The same position is explained in Pickering as "*Carry your Firelock in your right hand!*" [19] The 1798 recruiting poster (Figure 4-7), and the early plates for the *Regulations* (Figure 4-8) both carry this position as "*Trail Arms!*" The word "trail" is probably based on the figures in the British 1795 plate for the manual exercise of the fusee (Figure 4-4) and the firelock (Figure 4-5), resurrecting the usage from the manual of the pike to "*Trayle your Pike,*" [20] and later, with the matchlock to "*Trail your rest.*" [21] Pickering comments on this method of carrying the musket:

When marching through the woods and bushes, in Indian file, this way of carrying the firelock would prevent its interfering with them; and the pointing so high upwards, the man before you would not be in danger, in case your piece should go off. But if the firelocks are not loaded they may be carried upon a level, which will be a much easier position. [22]

Facing About Under Arms

Table 9-2 shows the chronology of facing to the right about under arms as performed by various nations before and after the Revolutionary War. The *Regulations* direct that the first motion includes "seizing the cartridge box with the right hand" [23] but makes no mention of any movement of the firelock. Facing to the right about is performed by the British and Prussians from 1746 to 1791 with the firelock at

“recover,” “rest,” or “poise” and both hands are kept on the piece. The French, beginning in 1755 and continuing through 1766, keep the piece fixed at the shoulder and grasp the cartridge box to prevent it from interfering with the accoutrements of the adjacent files. In 1791 the new French manual added the movement of turning the lock to the front at the same time the cartridge box was grasped, reducing further the possibility of interference of the files. This latter movement was introduced subsequently into American manuals, but there is no indication in the *Regulations* that the firelock was moved from the shoulder when facing to the rear under arms. In this work the firelock is not turned during the facings as this motion appears to have been introduced after the Revolution.

Rest

The *Regulations* give no special instructions for the position of *Rest!* under arms. Pickering’s instructions for resting the troops provide that:

If the men are to stand anytime, especially if they have been marching or exercising, so as to be fatigued, give the word, *Ease your Arms!* upon which leaning the firelock against the hollow of the right shoulder quit the right hand, and have both hands at liberty, to relieve and ease them as they please. [24]

Von Steuben’s *Instructions* at Valley Forge provide a little more information:

To make Devic[e] the time of Exercise the Inspector will Cause the Troops once or twice to stand Easy, in that Interval, the Soldier will be at Liberty to blow his nose & but as the Exercising is Resum’d, every Kind of motion is forbid & the Strictist Silence is to be Observ’d. [25]

Duane remarks that when the men were at ease:

... they usually hold the firelock with the right hand about the muzzle. [26]

Stand At Ease

Although the formal “parade rest” seems to have developed after the Revolution, a movement of this type, based on the earliest contemporary practices, has been included in this work for occasions in modern military exercises when its use may be appropriate. Lacroix’s description in 1810 of the position for *Rest* under arms, according to the French *Regulations* of 1791, specifies that the right hand and arm should be extended along the rammer. [27] This is identical to the 1766 French movement, *Reposez-vous*, [28] for resting under arms. In 1807 Duane uses the same position for his “*Stand At Ease*,” [29] None of these movements mention the position of the feet or the left hand. Scott’s *Regulations* of 1815 use the command “*Stand at-EASE*” for the first time and direct the right foot to be placed about six inches behind the left, the hands joined before the body, the muzzle rested on the shoulder, and “the whole attitude unconstrained.” [30] By 1836 Cooper’s instruction for

rest makes the earliest statements that one is to “Stand at ease, without moving the left foot from its position.” [31] Baxter’s 1861 description of the position of “*Parade Rest*” provides the final formality that the left hand shall be placed “on top of and supporting the right wrist” and “in this position remain steady.” [32]

Attention

The command “*Attention!*” is used in the *Regulations* to terminate the position of resting and in later regulations, standing at ease. Upon receiving this command, the soldier assumed the position of ordered arms. During this period the expressions “*Take Care!*” and “*Handle your Firelock!*” or “*Handle, Arms!*” were used as words of caution. *Take Care* appears in the *Regulations* as part of preparatory instructions for the complex commands of battalion drill. *Handle, Arms* was used to prepare the individual soldier for any of several commands that could follow the position of rest or standing at ordered arms. Pickering explains the use of *handle* while standing at ease:

When they are to seize their pieces again, give the word, *Handle your Firelock!* upon which they will come to their former position at the order. [33]

Von Setuben’s *Instructions* at Valley Forge introduced this expression into the last of the honors to be rendered to officers by the Battalion of Guards:

3rdly. For Brigade Genl. they Parade with Handled Arms. [34]

and for the formation of the Battalion of Guards:

The Adj. dress the whole troops from right to left, Then the Brigade Inspector Gallops to the Centre Draws his Sword and Commands attention, at the word the officers draw their swords, and Dress by the right, the Inspector General Commands, “*Handle Arms!, Shoulder, Firelocks!*” [35]

Post-Revolutionary War uses of this command are described by Duane:

HANDLE ARMS . . . This word of command may be used to bring the ranks to dress when the men are at ease, when they usually hold the firelock with the right hand about the muzzle; then it consists in bringing the hand down to the front, with the thumb behind the barrel — in the case of the hand being already extended down, it is used as a preparation for fixing the bayonet, or as a corrective of an imperfect execution of the motion with the hand down — in both cases it consists of one motion only. [36]

The *Regulations* make no specific use of the command *Handle, Arms!* but the command was in contemporary use to order the resumption of the position of ordered arms from the attitude of rest or standing easy.

The commands for the additional movements of the firelock are:

1. *Unfix, Bayonet!*
First Count *Support Cock*

Figure 9-1.

Second Count	<i>Grasp Swell</i>	Figure 9-2
Third Count		
Part 1	<i>Grasp Bayonet</i>	Figure 9-3
Part 2	<i>Remove Bayonet</i>	Figure 9-4
Part 3	<i>Reverse Bayonet</i>	Figure 9-5
Part 4	<i>Return Bayonet</i>	Figure 9-6
Part 5	<i>Press to Shoulder</i>	Figure 9-7
2. <i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i>		
First Count	<i>Raise Piece</i>	Figure 9-8
Second Count	<i>Grasp Butt</i>	Figure 9-9
Third Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 9-10
3. <i>Support, Arms!</i>		
First Count	<i>Grasp Small</i>	Figure 9-11
Second Count	<i>Support Cock</i>	Figure 9-12
4. <i>Ease, Arms!</i>		
First Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 9-13
5. <i>Support, Arms!</i>		
First Count	<i>Grasp Small</i>	Figure 9-14
6. <i>Carry, Arms!</i>		
First Count	<i>Grasp Butt</i>	Figure 9-15
Second Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 9-16
7. <i>Slope, Arms!</i>		
First Count	<i>Raise Butt</i>	Figure 9-17
8. <i>Carry, Arms!</i>		
First Count	<i>Lower Butt</i>	Figure 9-18
Second Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 9-19
9. <i>Trail, Arms!</i>		
First Count	<i>Grasp at Shoulder</i>	Figure 9-20
Second Count	<i>Lower Piece</i>	Figure 9-21
10. <i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i>		
First Count		
Part 1	<i>Raise Piece</i>	Figure 9-22
Part 2	<i>Toss Piece</i>	Figure 9-23
Second Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 9-24
11. <i>To the Right About, Face!</i>		
First Count	<i>Step Back</i>	Figure 9-25
Second Count	<i>Face to Rear</i>	Figure 9-26
Third Count	<i>Return Foot</i>	Figure 9-27
12. <i>Rest!</i>		
First Count	<i>Rest</i>	Figure 9-28
13. <i>Stand at, Ease!</i>		
First Count	<i>Step Back</i>	Figure 9-29
14. <i>Attention!</i>		
First Count	<i>Return Foot</i>	Figure 9-30

The detailed descriptions and illustrations of the fourteen additional movements of the firelock follow:

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Unfix Bayonet: [37]
Unfix — BAYONET! [38] (Three Counts) [39]
First Count (*Support Cock*) Figure 9-1

1. Bring the right hand up smartly and place it under the cock, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. First joint of the forefinger touching the comb of the cock.
 - c. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointing upward.
 - d. Fingers extended and joined.

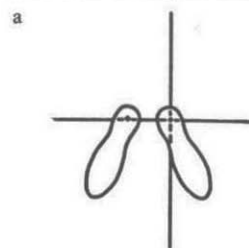
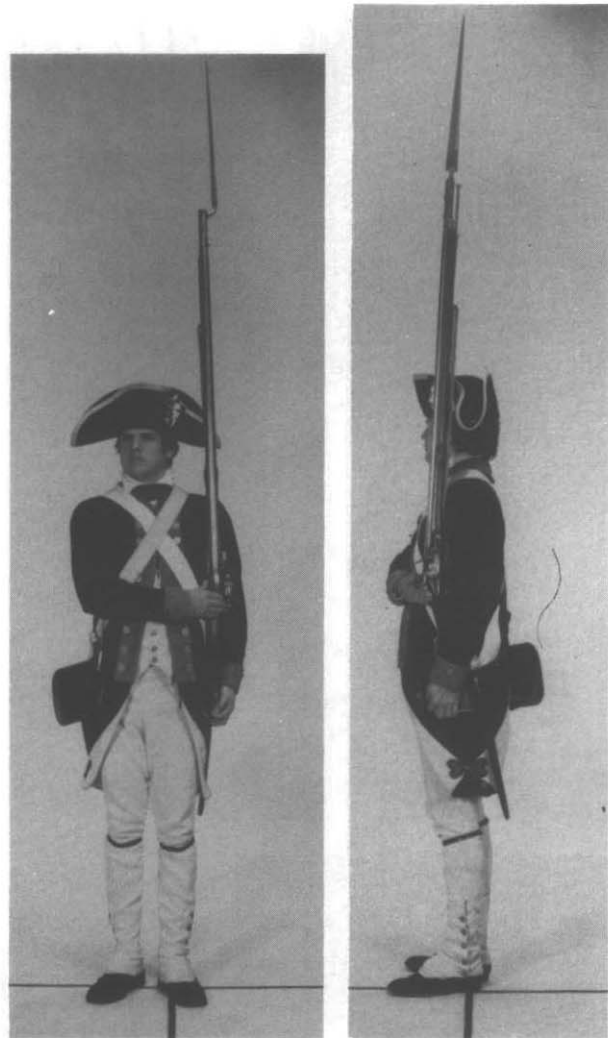


Fig. 9-1 Position of *Unfix, Bayonet, First Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Grasp Swell*) Figure 9-2

1. Let go of the butt with the left hand.
2. Seize the piece with the left hand at the swell of the stock above the tail pipe, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the left.
 - b. Fingers around the barrel.
 - c. Thumb up and over the sling.
3. Bring down the left forearm from wrist to elbow close along the outside of the stock from swell to lock.
4. Detach the piece from the shoulder with the left hand until the barrel is vertical without moving the butt.

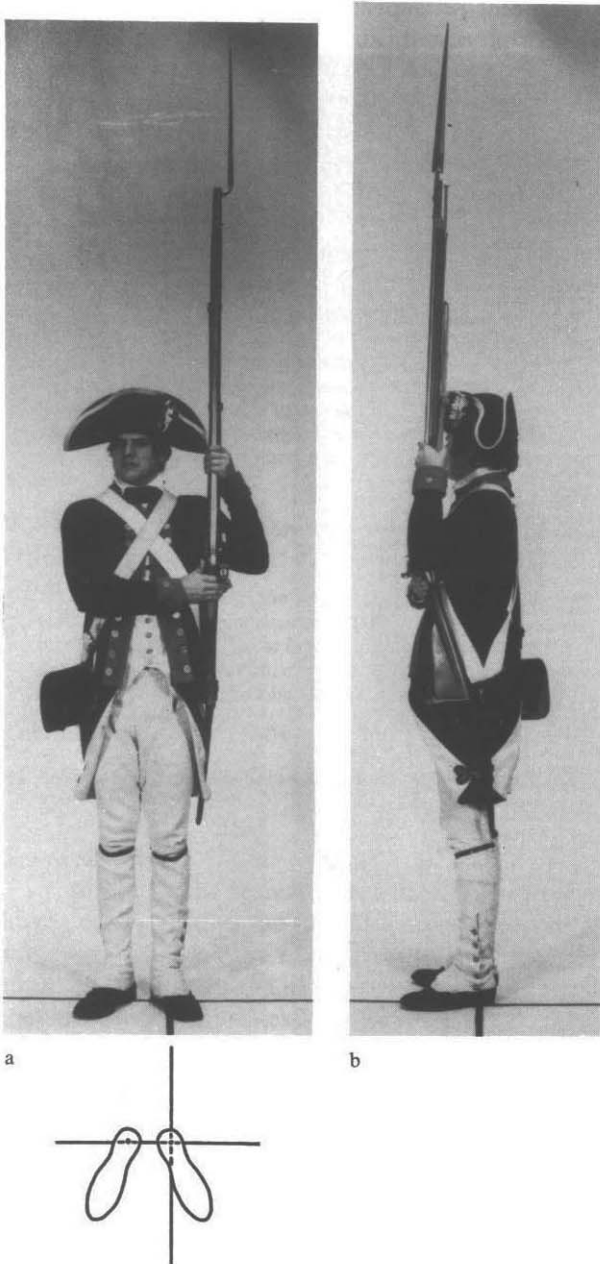


Fig. 9-2 Position of *Unfix. Bayonet, Second Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Third Count, Part 1 (*Grasp Bayonet*) Figure 9-3

1. Let go the piece with the right hand.
2. Lower the piece down the left side with the left hand, the:
 - a. Barrel to the front.
 - b. Muzzle about five inches before the hollow of the left shoulder.
 - c. Heel of the butt as far back as the heels.
 - d. Left arm hanging straight down.
 - e. Left hand holding the piece a little above the swell.
3. At the same time, grasp the socket of the bayonet with the right hand (Figure 9-3c), the:
 - a. Upper joint of the forefinger under the shank of the bayonet.
 - b. Back of the hand to the front.

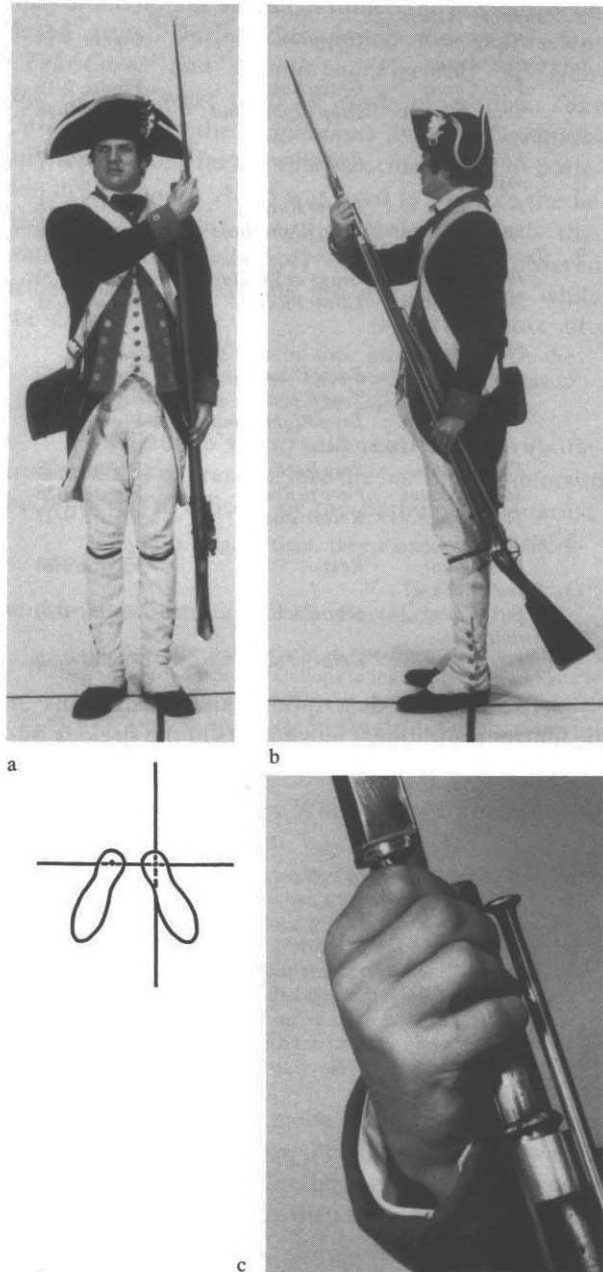


Fig. 9-3 Position of *Unfix. Bayonet, Third Count, Part 1* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the right hand on the bayonet socket viewed at (c) from the left flank.

Third Count, Part 2 (*Remove Bayonet*) Figure 9-4

1. Lift the bayonet smartly with the forefinger until the sight strikes the bottom of the longitudinal slot of the mortise.
2. Turn the bayonet to the front until the sight strikes the side of the transverse slot of the mortise.
3. Lift the bayonet until the end of the socket is about one inch clear of the muzzle (Figure 9-4c), the:
 - a. Bridge of the notch to the front.
 - b. Axis of the socket aligned with the axis of the barrel.

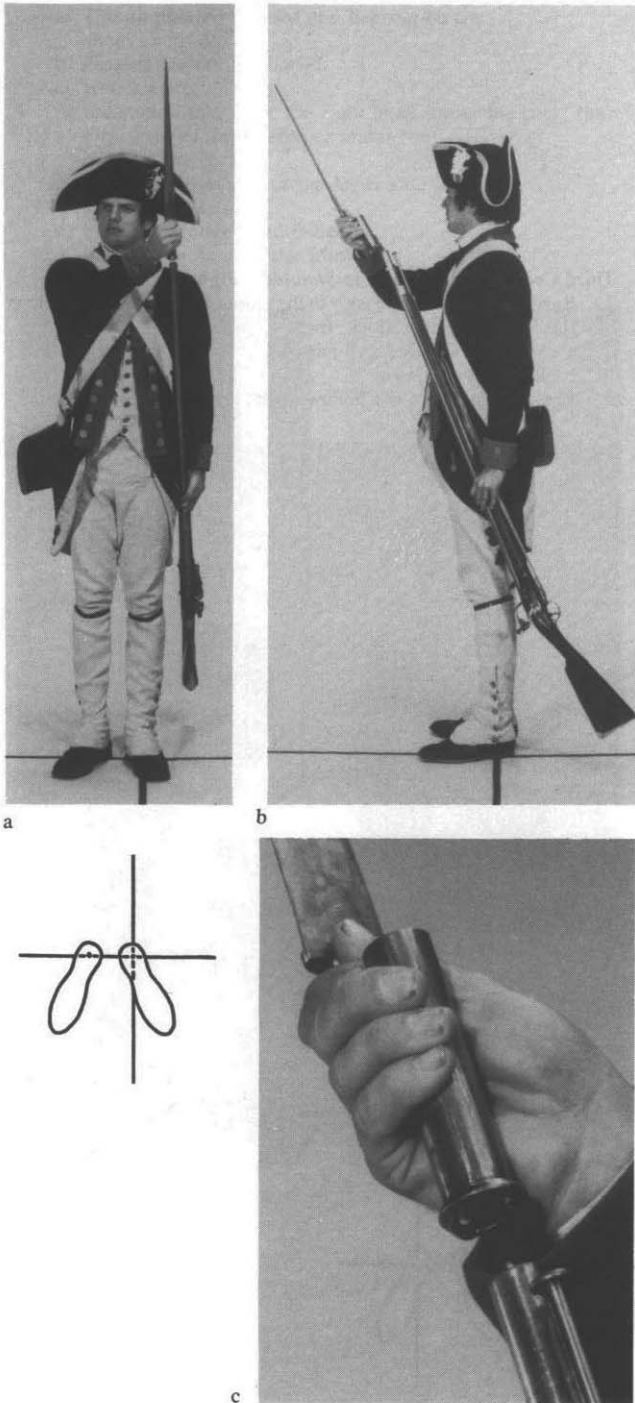


Fig. 9-4 Position of *Unfix, Bayonet, Third Count, Part 2* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of bayonet socket above the muzzle viewed at (c) from the left flank.

Third Count, Part 3 (*Reverse Bayonet*) Figure 9-5

1. Turn the point of the bayonet down.
2. Look at the mouth of the scabbard.
3. Insert the point of the bayonet into the mouth of the scabbard (Figure 9-5c), the:
 - a. Shank between the thumb and forefinger.
 - b. Thumb in the hollow of the bend.
 - c. Heel of the hand about an inch below the end of the socket.
 - d. Flat of the blade toward the body.

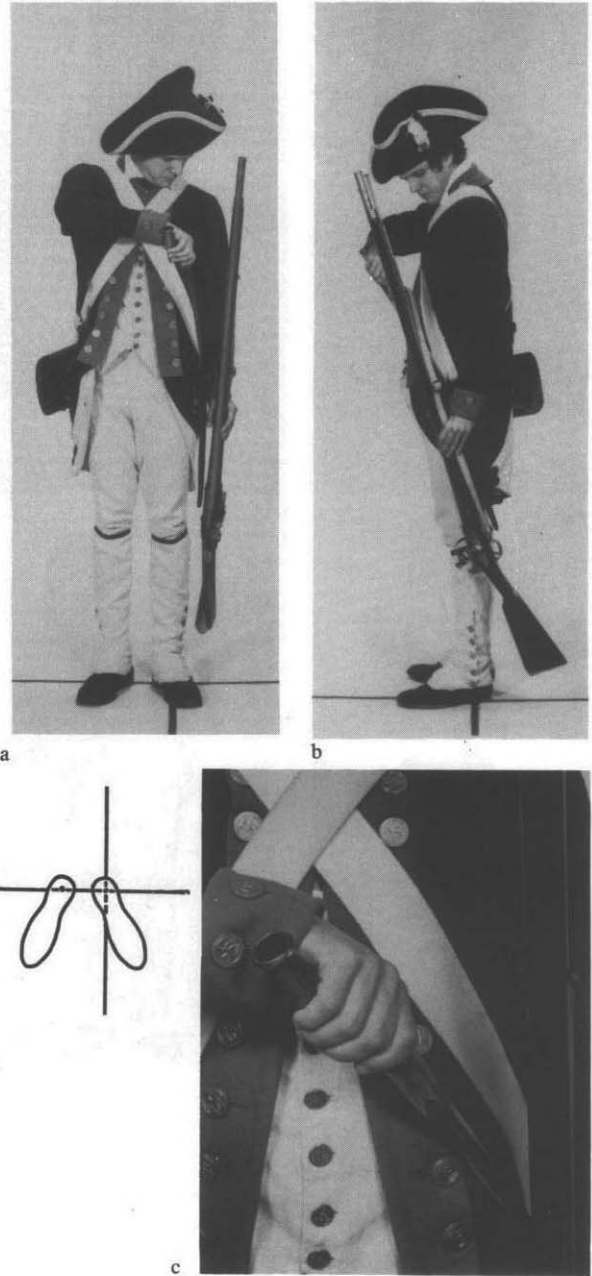
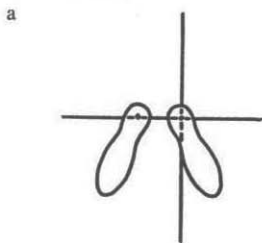
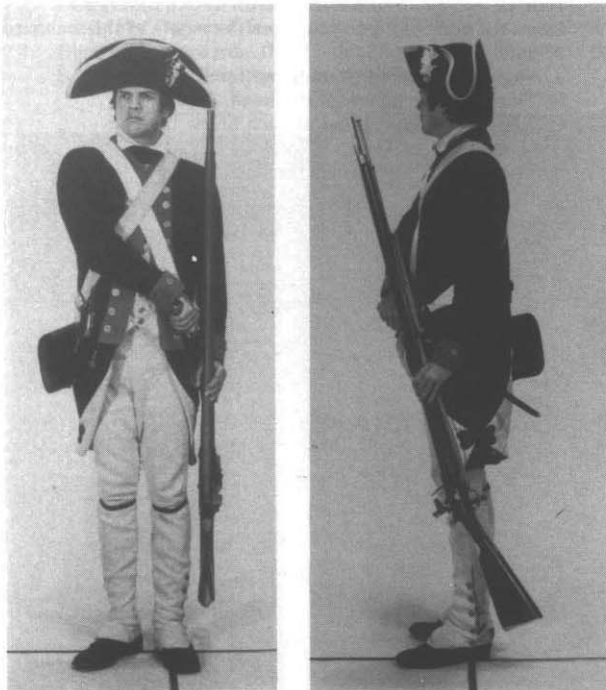


Fig. 9-5 Position of *Unfix, Bayonet, Third Count, Part 3* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the point of the bayonet entering the scabbard viewed at (c) from the front.

Third Count, Part 4 (*Return Bayonet*) Figure 9-6

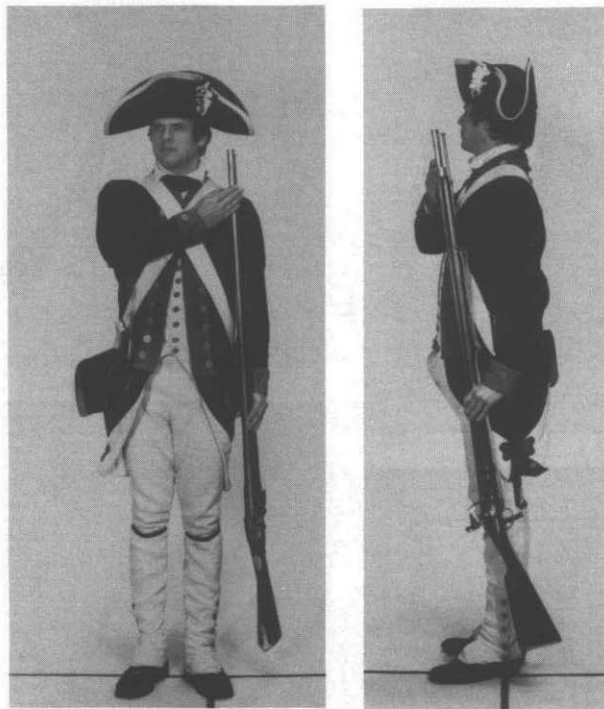
1. Thrust the bayonet into the scabbard.
2. Look up, the:
 - a. Head turned to the right.
 - b. Left eye over the center of the body.
 - c. Eyes on the fogleman.



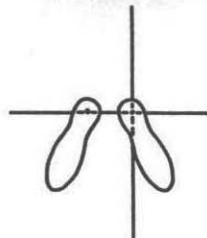
b

Third Count, Part 5 (*Press to Shoulder*) Figure 9-7

1. Raise the right hand briskly to the front of the barrel just below the fore-end of the stock, the:
 - a. Fingers extended and joined.
 - b. Right elbow down.
2. Press the piece to the hollow of the left shoulder.



a



b

Fig. 9-6 Position of *Unfix, Bayonet, Third Count, Part 4* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 9-7 Position of *Unfix, Bayonet, Third Count, Part 5* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT UNFIXED BAYONET, To Shoulder Firelock:

Shoulder — FIRELOCK! (Three Counts)

First Count (*Raise Piece*) Figure 9-8

1. Let go the piece with the right hand.
2. At the same time, raise the piece briskly with the left hand about four inches before the left shoulder, the:
 - a. Left hand as high as the chin.
 - b. Left forearm against the piece.
 - c. Barrel to the front.
3. Open the left hand and regrasp the stock immediately at the swell, the:
 - a. Thumb pointed upward and bearing on the sling.
 - b. Fingers around the barrel.
 - c. Knuckles to the front.
4. At the same time, place the right hand under the cock, the:
 - a. First joint of the forefinger under the comb of the cock.
 - b. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointed upward.
 - c. Fingers extended and joined.
 - d. Back of the hand to the front.

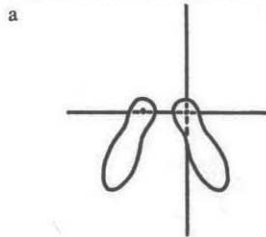
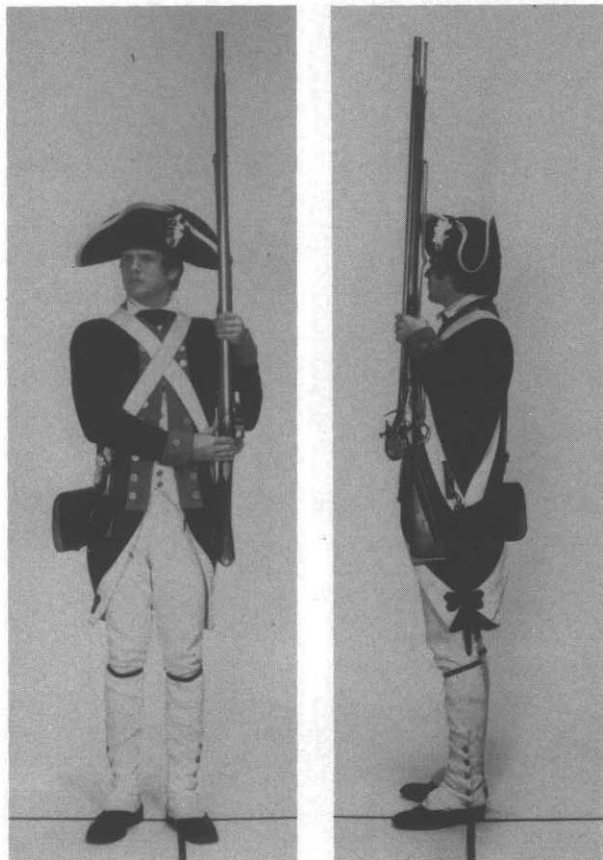


Fig. 9-8 Position of *Shoulder Firelock, First Count* from *Unfix. Bayonet* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Grasp Butt*) Figure 9-9

1. Quit the piece with the left hand bringing it down hard on the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger before the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.
 - c. Left elbow back.
2. Press the piece against the left shoulder with the right hand.

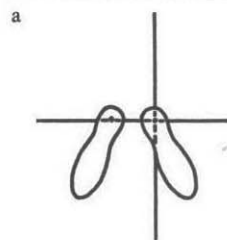
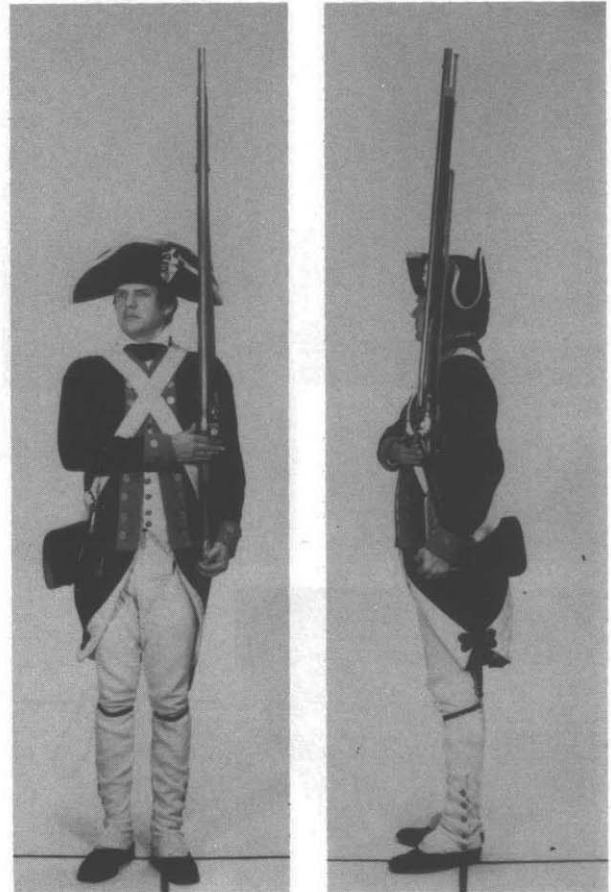
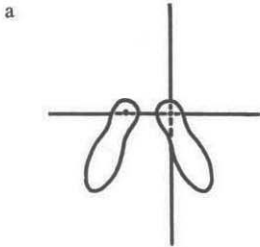
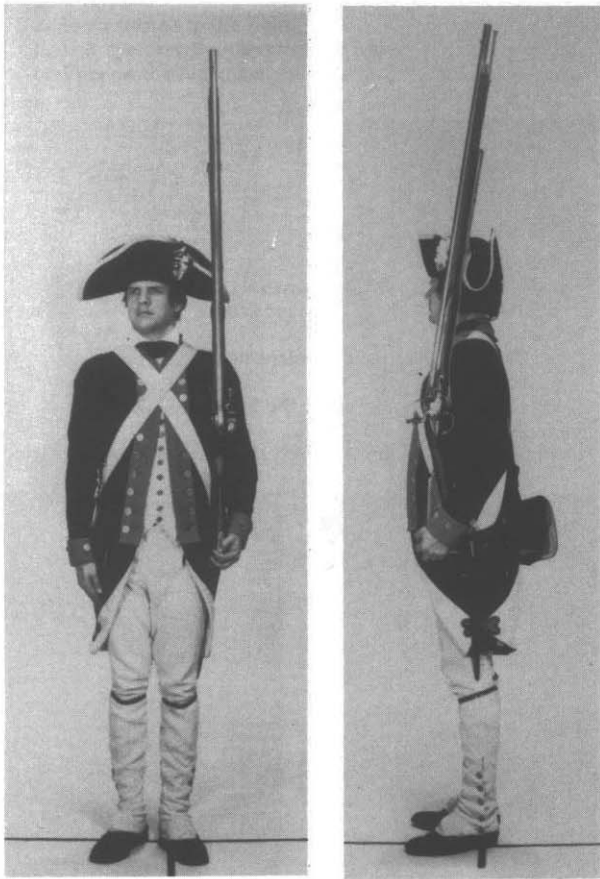


Fig. 9-9 Position of *Shoulder Firelock, Second Count* from *Unfix. Bayonet* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Third Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 9-10

1. Drop the right hand quickly to the side, palm toward the thigh.



b

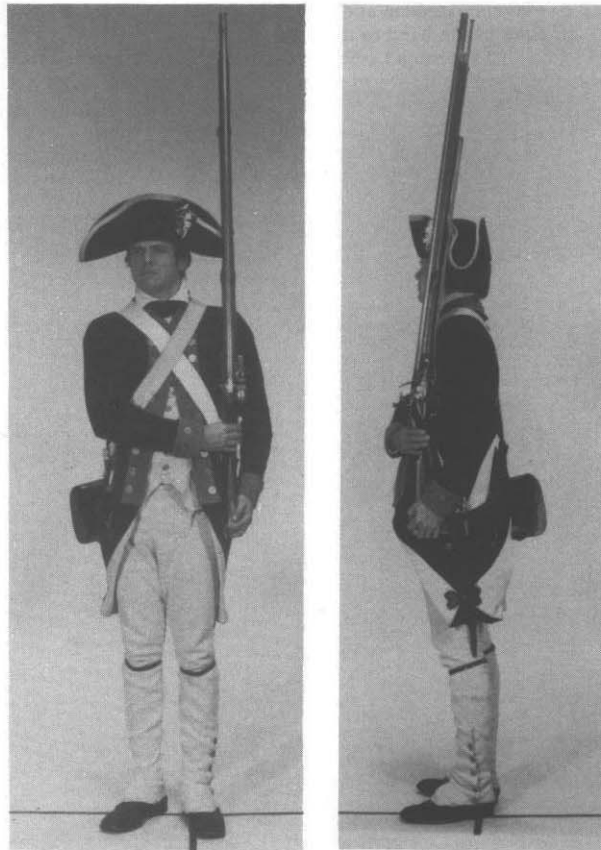
BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Support Arms:

Support — ARMS! (Two Counts)

First Count (*Grasp Small*) Figure 9-11

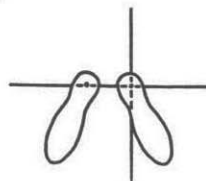
1. Bring up the right hand smartly to the small of the stock (Figure 9-11c), the:

- a. Back of the hand to the front.
- b. Top of the hand below the lock a sufficient distance to allow room for the left arm to be brought under the cock.
- c. Thumb on the inside pointed upwards, the ball only touching the piece near the finial of the shoulder of the sideplate mortise.
- d. First joints of the fingers clasped around the outside of the small of the stock.
- e. Second joints of the fingers on the front of the small of the stock.



a

b



c

Fig. 9-10 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Third Count* from *Unfix, Bayonet* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 9-11 Position of *Support, Arms, First Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the right hand on the small of the stock viewed at (c) from the front.

Second Count (*Support Arms*) Figure 9-12

1. Let go the butt with the left hand.
2. Bring up the left forearm horizontally across the body close under the cock (Figure 9-12c), the:
 - a. Left hand resting on the swell of the right forearm, the:
 - 1). Palm nearly on the upper side.
 - 2). Fingers mostly on the foreside extended towards the right elbow.
 - 3). Thumb between the arm and the body.
 - b. Comb of the cock resting on the arm near the bend of the elbow.

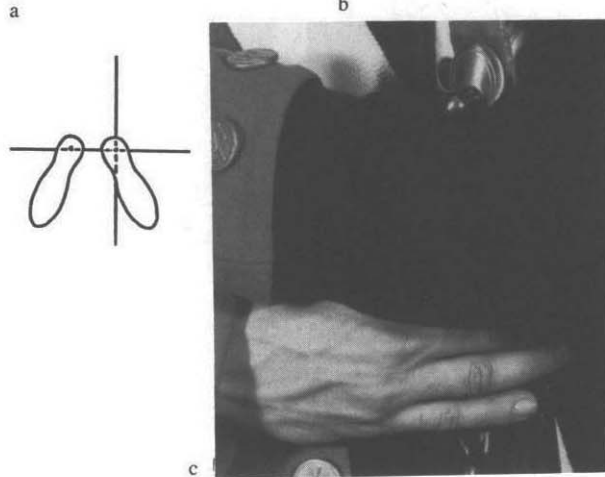
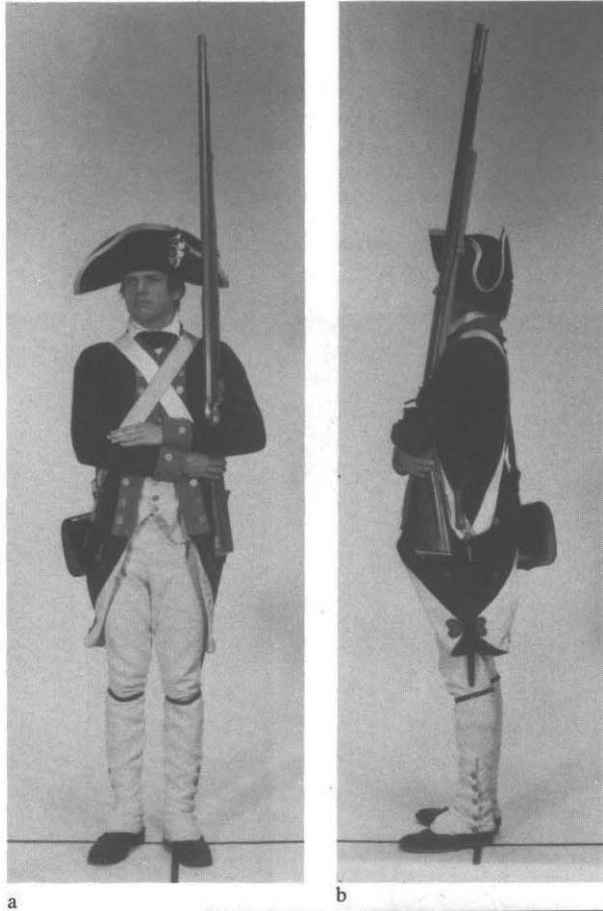


Fig. 9-12 Position of *Support Arms, Second Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the cock on the left forearm viewed at (c) from the front.

BEING AT SUPPORTED ARMS, To Ease Arms:

Ease — *ARMS!* (One Count)

First Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 9-13

1. Let go the small of the stock with the right hand.
2. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm toward the thigh.
3. Place the palm of the left hand flat against the body, the:
 - a. Fingers and thumb joined and extended.
 - b. Left forearm horizontal.
4. Support the piece by the cock resting on the left forearm near the elbow. (Figure 9-13c)

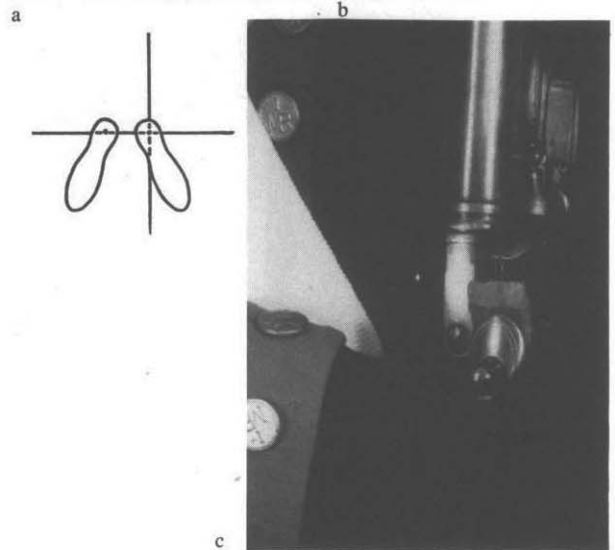
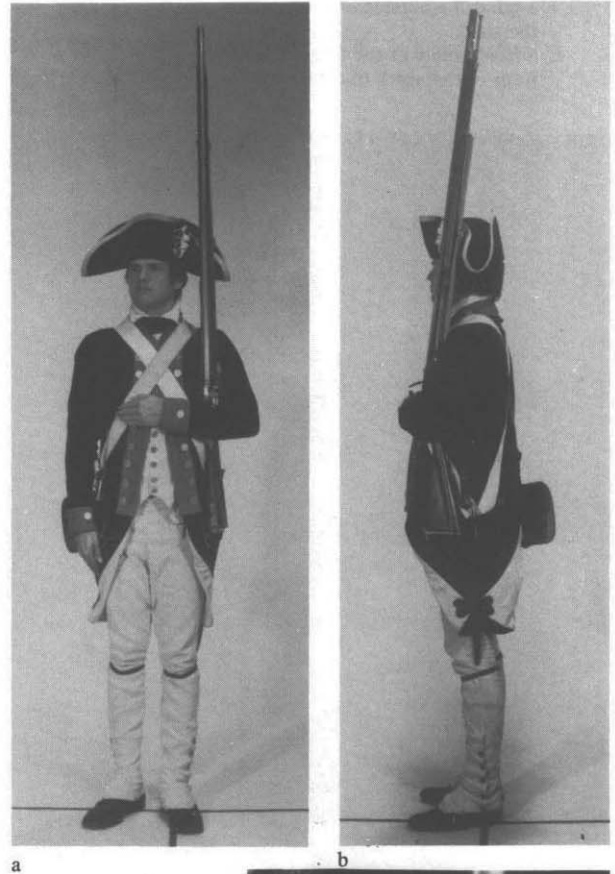


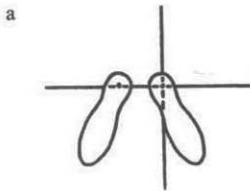
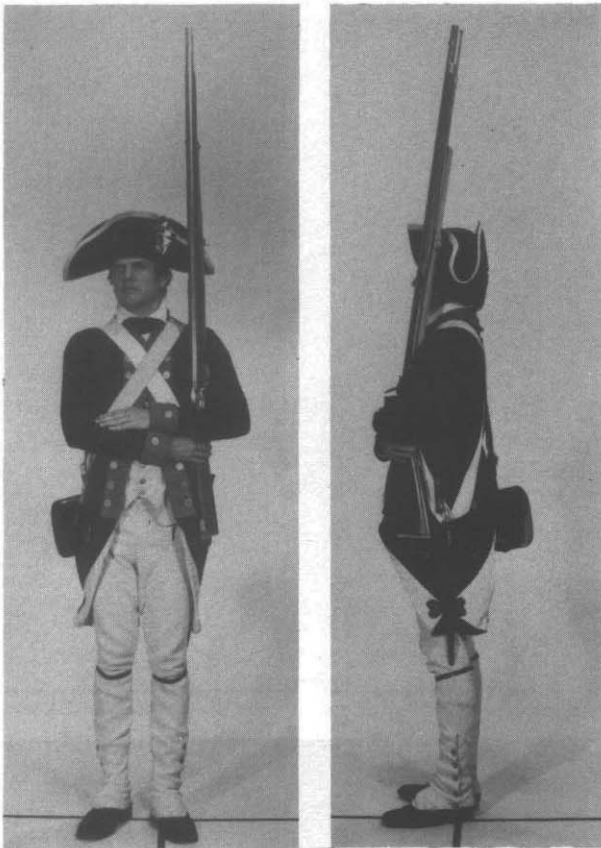
Fig. 9-13 Position of *Ease Arms, First Count* from *Support Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the cock on the left forearm viewed at (c) from the front.

BEING AT EASED ARMS, To Support Arms:

Support — ARMS! (One Count)

First Count (*Grasp Small*) Figure 9-14

1. Bring up the right hand smartly to the small of the stock close under the left forearm, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. Thumb on the inside pointed upwards, the ball only touching the piece near the finial of the shoulder of the sideplate mortise.
 - c. First joints of the fingers clasped around the outside of the small of the stock.
 - d. Second joints of the fingers on the front of the small of the stock.



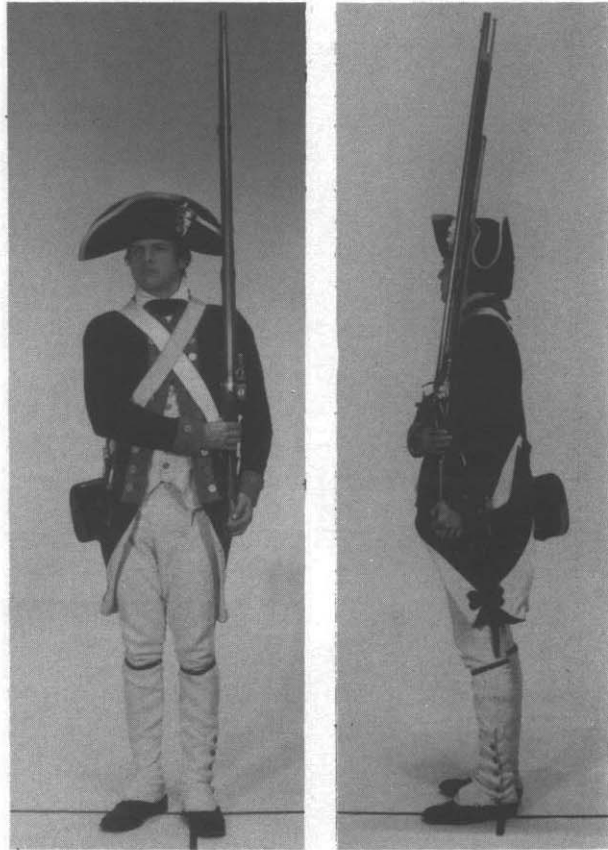
b

BEING AT SUPPORTED ARMS, To Shoulder Firelock:

Carry — ARMS! (Two Counts)

First Count (*Grasp Butt*) Figure 9-15

1. Drop the left hand bringing it down hard on the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger before the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.
 - c. Left elbow back.



a

b

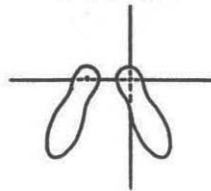


Fig. 9-14 Position of *Support, Arms, First Count* from *Ease, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 9-15 Position of *Carry, Arms, First Count* from *Support, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 9-16

1. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm toward the thigh.

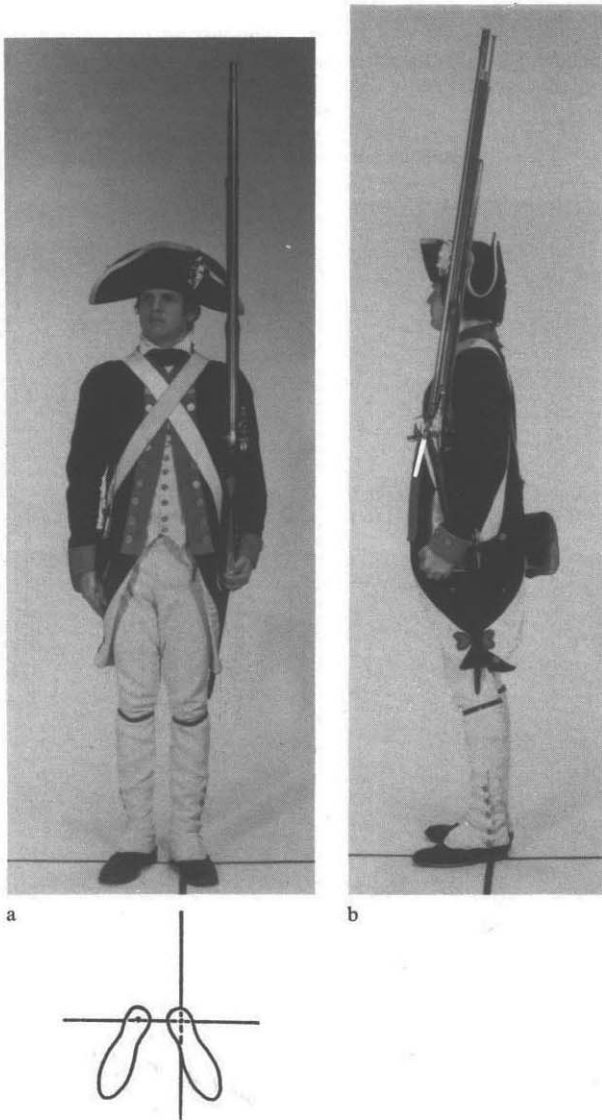


Fig. 9-16 Position of *Carry, Arms, Second Count* from *Support, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Slope Arms:
Slope — ARMS! (One Count) Figure 9-17

First Count, (*Raise Butt*)

1. Raise the butt upward and forward with the left hand, sliding the piece on the shoulder, the:
 - a. Barrel up.
 - b. Left forearm nearly horizontal.
 - c. Left upper arm vertical.
 - d. Butt displaced to the left.
 - e. Piece held obliquely to the left.
 - f. Muzzle positioned to the rear of the right shoulder.



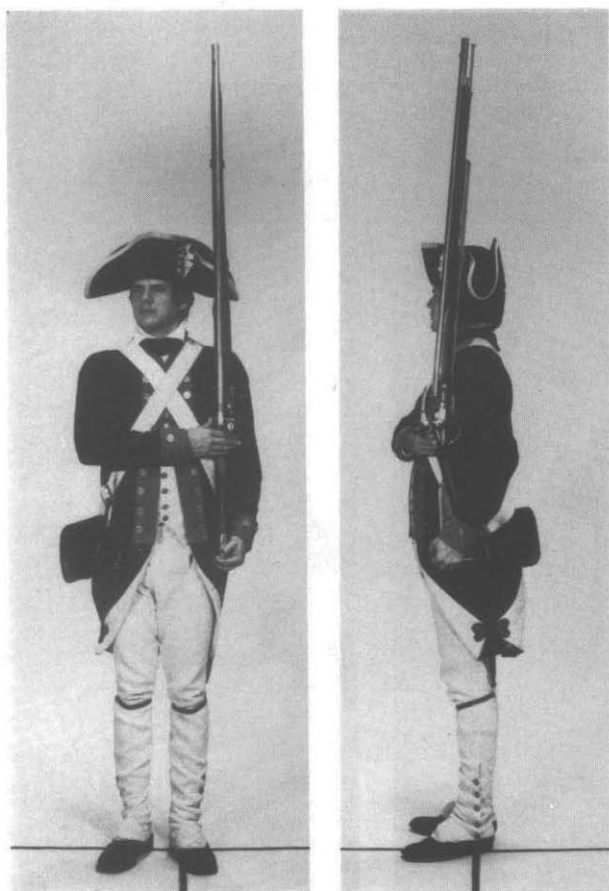
Fig. 9-17 Position of *Slope, Arms, First Count* from *Shoulder, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT SLOPED ARMS, To Shoulder Firelock:

Carry — ARMS! (Two Counts) [40] Figure 9-18

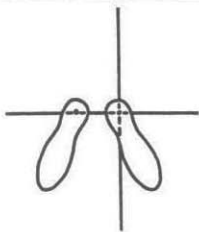
First Count (*Lower Butt*)

1. Pull the butt down and to the rear with the left hand, sliding the piece on the shoulder, the:
 - a. Barrel:
 - 1). To the front.
 - 2). Vertical when observed from the front.
 - b. Left arm extended down without constraint.
 - c. Back of the fingers under the butt which is held close against the hip bone.
 - d. Left elbow back without constraint.
2. Bring up the right hand smartly to the small of the stock to stop and steady the piece at the shoulder, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. First joint of the forefinger touching the comb of the cock.
 - c. Thumb on the head of the lower sidenail, pointing upward.
 - d. Fingers extended and joined.



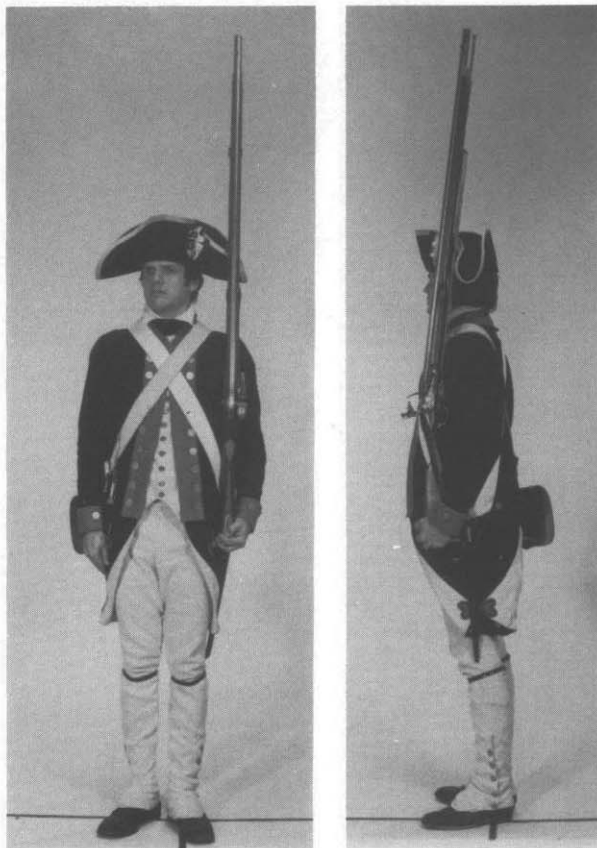
a

b



Second Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 9-19

1. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm toward the thigh.



a

b

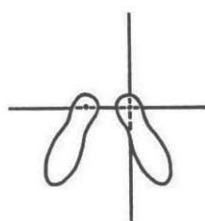


Fig. 9-18 Position of Carry, Arms, First Count from Slope, Arms viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

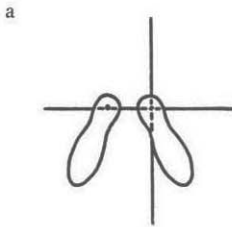
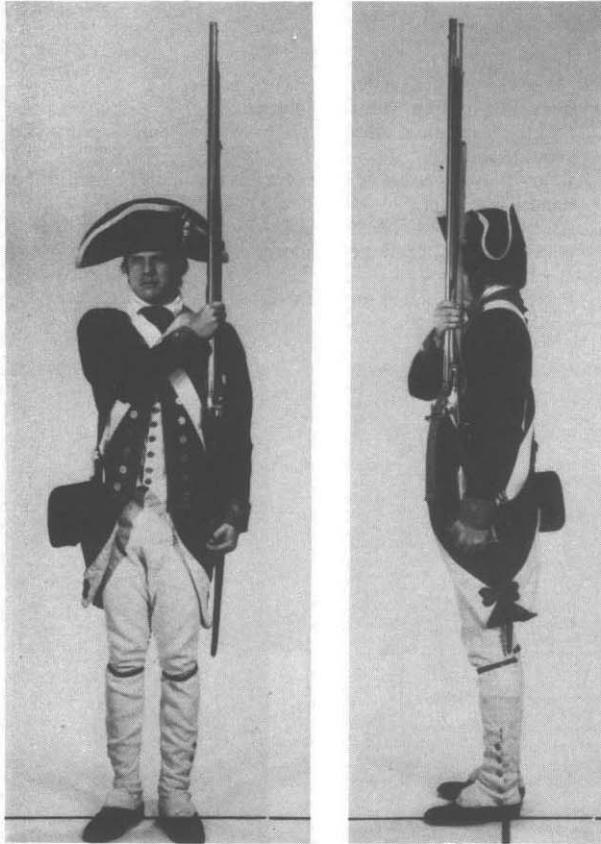
Fig. 9-19 Position of Carry, Arms, Second Count from Slope, Arms viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Trail Arms:

Trail — ARMS! (Two Counts)

First Count (*Grasp at Shoulder*) Figure 9-20

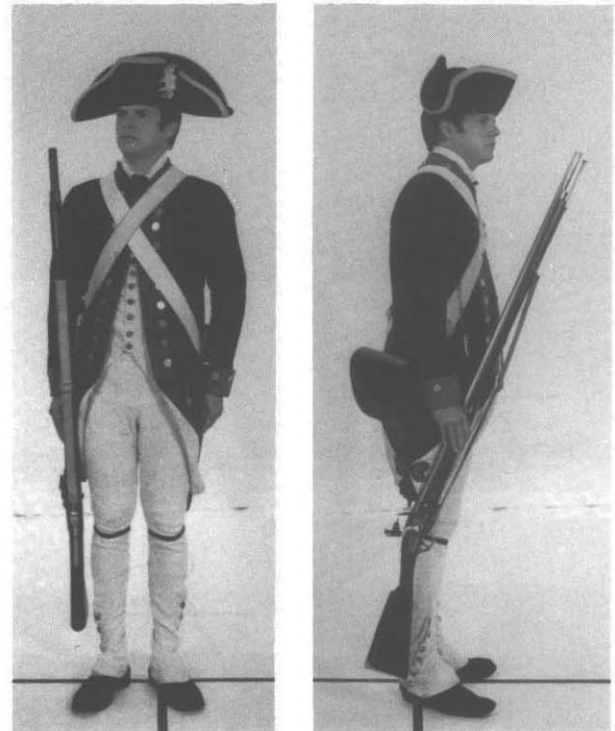
1. Lower the piece smartly by extending the left arm as far as possible without stiffness.
2. At the same time, grasp the piece briskly with the right hand at the left shoulder just below the swell at the tail pipe, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. Right elbow close to the body.
 - c. Little finger almost as high as the shoulder.



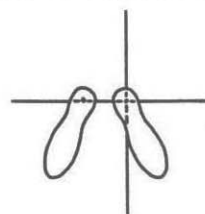
b

Second Count (*Lower Piece*) Figure 9-21

1. Let go the butt with the left hand and drop it to the side.
2. At the same time, lower the piece briskly with the right hand to the right side in a sloping position, the:
 - a. Muzzle about a foot and a half before the right shoulder.
 - b. Butt plate a few inches above the ground.
 - c. Barrel:
 - 1). To the rear.
 - 2). Grasped within the hollow between the thumb and the forefinger of the right hand.
 - d. Right hand opposite the right thigh, the fingers clenched around the stock.



a



b

Fig. 9-20 Position of Trail, Arms, First Count from Shoulder, Firelock viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

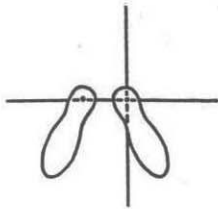
Fig. 9-21 Position of Trail, Arms, Second Count from Shoulder, Firelock viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING AT TRAILED ARMS, To Shoulder Firelock:

Shoulder — FIRELOCK! (Two Counts)

First Count, Part 1 (*Raise Piece*) Figure 9-22

1. Raise the piece smartly with the right hand to the left side, the:
 - a. Piece before the left shoulder.
 - b. Barrel to the front.
 - c. Right forearm nearly horizontal.
 - d. Back of the hand to the front.



First Count, Part 2 (*Toss Piece*) Figure 9-23

1. Toss the piece up with the right hand.
2. Slip the right hand down as the piece is brought against the shoulder.
3. Regrasp the piece below the end of the tail pipe, the back of the hand to the front.
4. At the same time, place the left hand under the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger before the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.
 - c. Left elbow back.

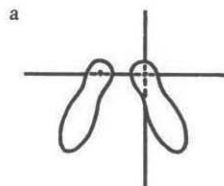


Fig. 9-22 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, First Count, Part 1* from *Trail Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 9-23 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, First Count, Part 2* from *Trail Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 9-24

1. Drop the right hand quickly to the side, the palm toward the thigh.

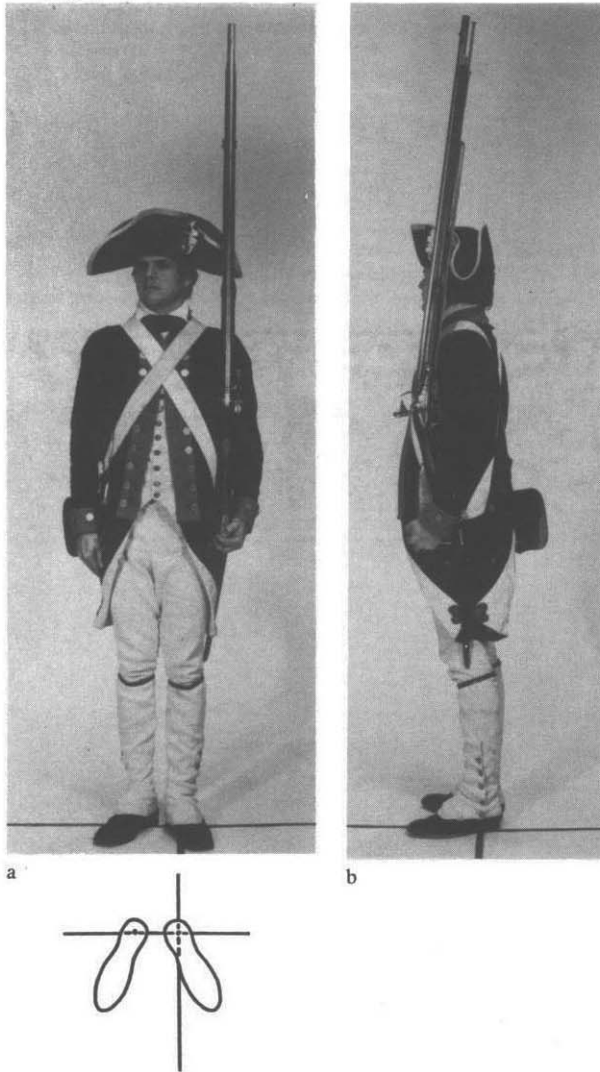


Fig. 9-24 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Second Count* from *Trail Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Face To The Rear:

To the *Right About* — *FACE!* (Three Counts)

First Count (*Step Back*) Figure 9-25

1. Step back with the right foot, placing the:
 - a. Instep three inches behind the left heel.
 - b. Length of the foot perpendicular to that of the left.
2. At the same time, seize the front corner of the cartridge box with the right hand. (Figure 9-25c)
3. Keep the piece steady.

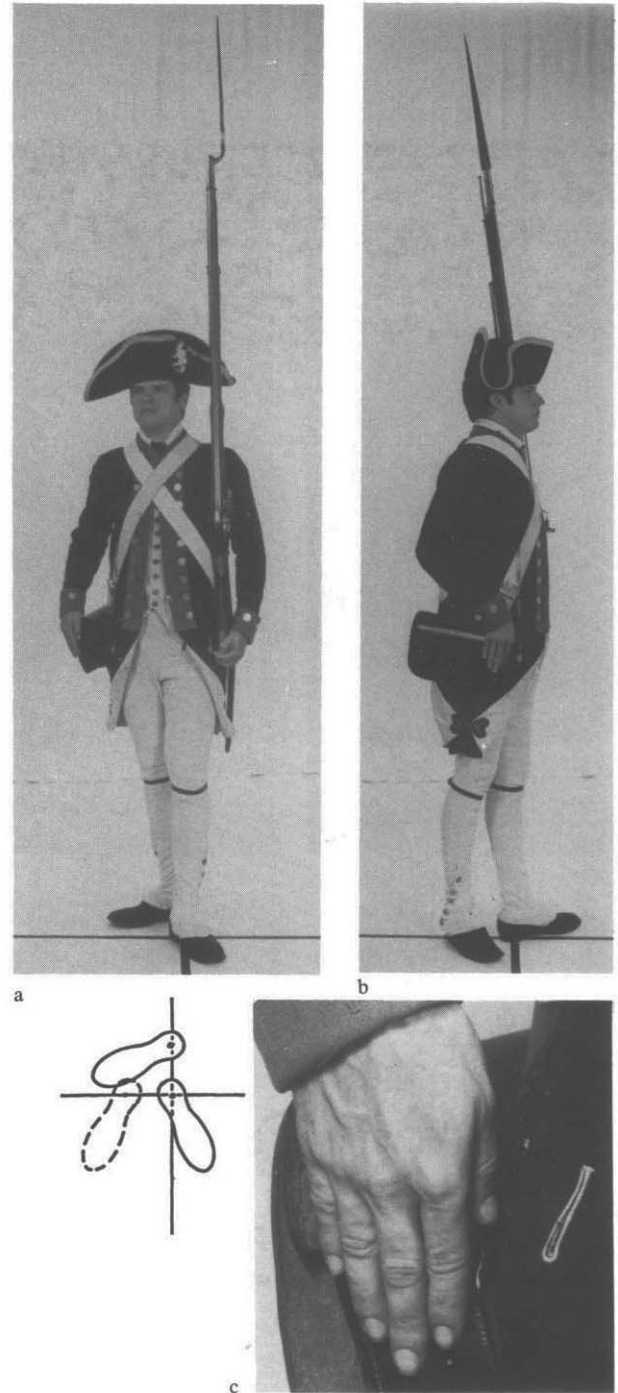
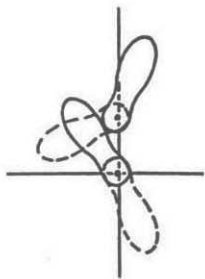
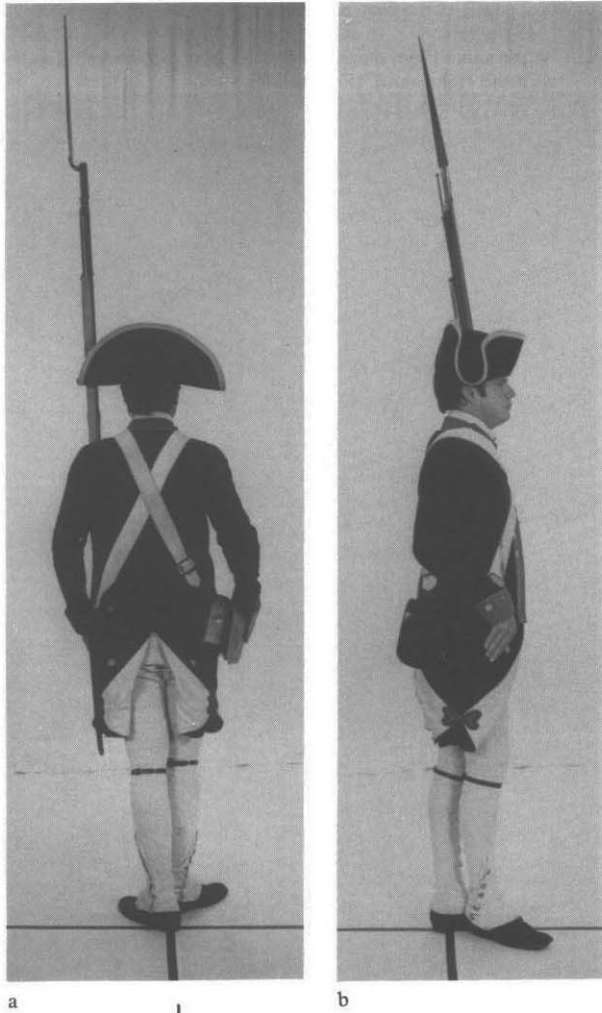


Fig. 9-25 Position of *To the Right About, Face, First Count* at *Shouldered Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the cartridge box viewed at (c) from the right flank.

Second Count (*Face to Rear*) Figure 9-26

1. Raise the toes of both feet slightly.
2. Turn briskly on both heels 180 degrees to the right.



Third Count (*Return Foot*) Figure 9-27

1. Bring the right foot back smartly.
2. Place the right heel at the side of and two inches from the left heel without stamping.
3. Let go the cartridge box and drop the right hand to the right side, the palm toward the thigh.

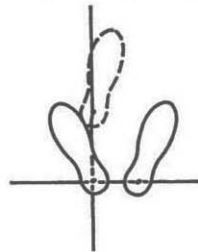
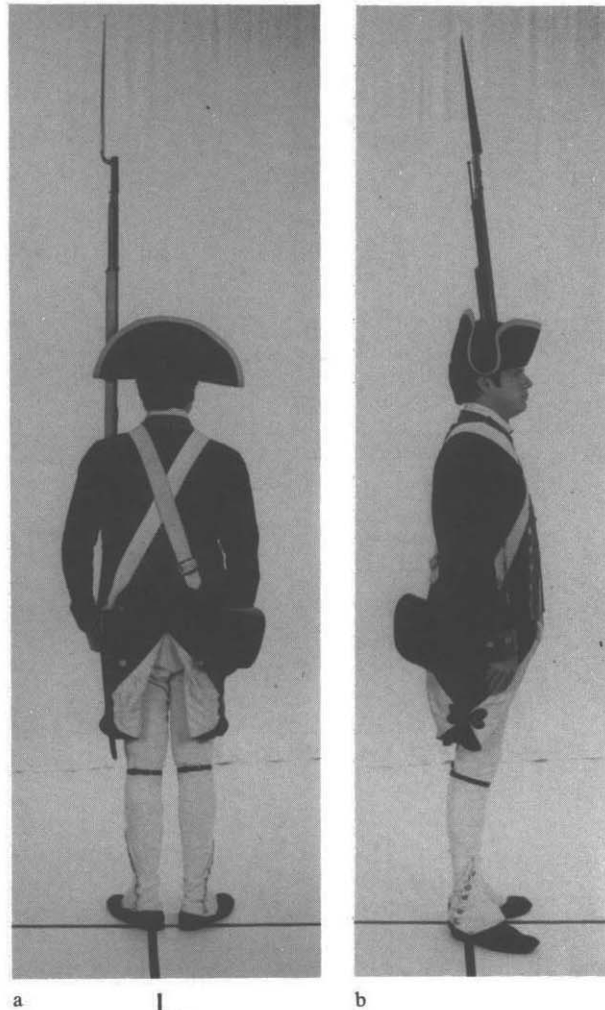


Fig. 9-26 Position of *To the Right About, Face, Second Count* at *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 9-27 Position of *To the Right About, Face, Third Count* at *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT ORDERED FIRELOCK, To Rest:

REST! (One Count)

First Count (*Rest*) Figure 9-28

1. Remain in place and stand unless permitted otherwise.
2. Move hands and feet as comfortable.



a

b

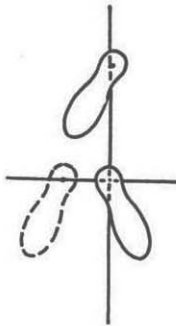


Fig. 9-28 Position of *Rest*, *First Count* from *Order, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING AT ORDERED FIRELOCK, To Stand At Ease:

Stand At — *EASE!* (One Count)

First Count (*Step Back*) Figure 9-29

1. Place the right foot six inches behind the left, the:
 - a. Weight of the body rested principally on the right leg.
 - b. Left leg bent slightly.
2. Rest the muzzle of the piece on the right shoulder.
3. Join the hands before the body, the:
 - a. Left hand over the right.
 - b. Left thumb between the right thumb and forefinger.
4. Keep the left heel in place.



a

b

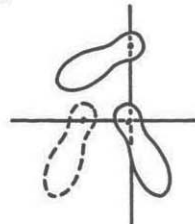
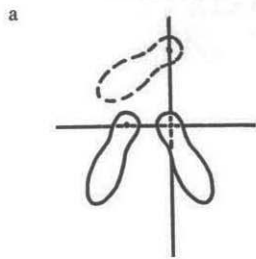
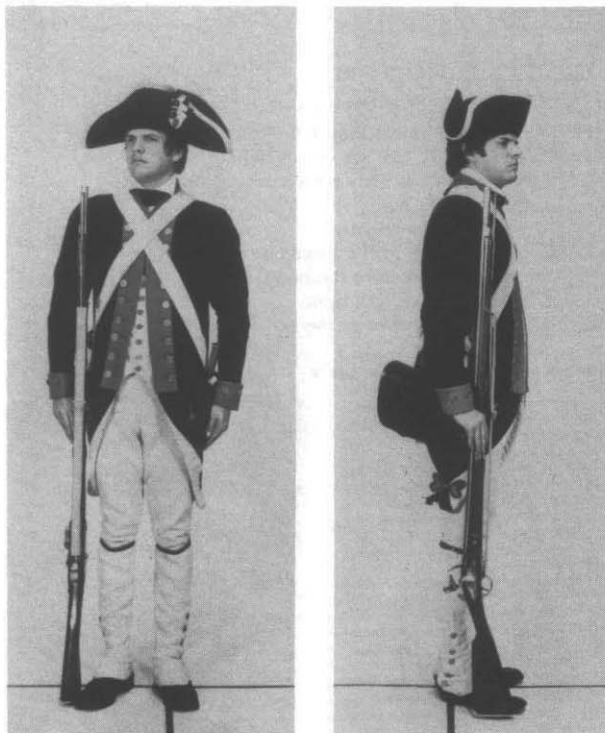


Fig. 9-29 Position of *Stand At, Ease*, *First Count* from *Order, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING AT REST OR STANDING AT EASE, To Order Firelock:
ATTENTION! (One Count)

First Count (*Order Firelock*) Figure 9-30

1. Unclasp the hands.
2. Drop the left hand to the side, palm toward the thighs.
3. Grasp the piece with the right hand, the:
 - a. Barrel between the thumb and forefinger.
 - b. Arm extended down without constraint.
 - c. Barrel perpendicular before the right shoulder.
4. At the same time, bring up the right foot smartly without stamping, the heel at the side of and two inches from the left heel.



Notes to Chapter 9

ADDITIONAL MOVEMENTS OF THE FIRELOCK

1. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part II, p. 17.
2. *Regulations*, 1779, pp. 50, 81, 98, 101, 104, and 106.
3. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part I, p. 21.
4. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, pp. 27-28.
5. Cuthbertson, *System for the Management of a Battalion*, 1768, p. 172.
6. *The Manual Exercise, As Ordered by His Majesty, In the Year 1764. Together With the Plans and Explanations of the Method Generally Practiced at Reviews and Field Days*, Philadelphia: R. Aitken, 1775, p. 27.
7. "Treatise on Military Affairs," *New Royal Encyclopaedia*, London: ca. 1795-1801, Section VIII.
8. *Ibid.*, Section V, Plate 5.
9. U.S. War Department, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of Infantry*, 1815, p. 35.
10. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part I, p. 21.
11. *Regulations*, 1779, pp. 50, 80.
12. *Ibid.*, p. 106.
13. Cuthbertson, *loc. cit.*, p. 182.
14. U.S. War Department, *Regulations for the Field Exercise, Manoeuvres, and Conduct of Infantry of the United States*, 1812, p. 182.
15. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 25.
16. U.S. War Department, *Regulations*, 1812, p. 12.
17. *Ibid.*
18. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part I, p. 24.
19. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 29.
20. Grose, *Military Antiquities*, 1812, Vol. 1, "Exercise of the Pike, Plate 4."
21. *Ibid.*, "Musketeers, Plate 3."
22. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 29, f.n. 1.
23. *Regulations*, 1779, *loc. cit.*
24. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 30, f.n.
25. *Orderly Book No. 17*, 1778, "Baron Steubens Instructions," p. 157.
26. Duane, *Handbook for Infantry*, 1814, p. 103.
27. Lacroix, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise, and Manoeuvres of the French Infantry, 1791-1810*, p. 33.
28. *Ordonnance du Roi*, 1766, p. 59.
29. Duane, *The System of Discipline and Manoeuvres of Infantry*, Philadelphia: William Duane, 1807, p. 24.
30. U.S. War Department, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of Infantry*, New York: T. & W. Mercein, 1815, p. 32.
31. Brevet Captain S. Cooper, *A Concise System of Instructions for the Militia and Volunteers of the United States*, Philadelphia: Robert P. Desilver, 1836, Part I, p. 1.
32. Lieut. Col. D.W.C. Baxter, *Baxter's Volunteer Manual*, Philadelphia, 1861, p. 12.
33. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 30.
34. *Orderly Book No. 17*, 1778, "Baron Steubens Instructions," p. 129 (March 24, 1778); Washington, *Writings*, Vol. 11, p. 400 (May 16, 1778).
35. *Orderly Book No. 17, Ibid.*, p. 124 (March 30, 1778).
36. Duane, *Handbook for Infantry*, 1814, p. 103.

Fig. 9-30 Position of Order, Firelock, First Count from Stand At Ease viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

37. *Regulations*, 1779, p. 154. The final instruction for the private soldier makes the lone reference to this movement: "He must always have a stopper for the muzzle of his gun in case of rain, and when on a march; at which time he will *unfix* [italics: E.W.P.] his bayonet." *Orderly Book No. 17*, 1778, "Baron Steubens Instructions," p. 11 uses the command, "Unfix your Bayonets!" Washington, *Writings*, Vol. 14, p. 151, f.n. 60, refers to "unfixing the bayonet" in his comments on February 26, 1779 to von Steuben on the manuscript for the *Regulations*.
38. *Oxford English Dictionary*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1933. The pronunciation of the word, unfix, follows the rules of this source which still agree with those given by Pickering for the accent of other commands.
39. The movement of unfixing the bayonet follows the inverse procedure of the *Regulations*, 1779 for fixing bayonets.
40. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 27. War Department, *Regulation for the Field Exercise, Manoeuvres, and Conduct of the Infantry of the United States*, Philadelphia: Fry and Kammerer, 1812, p. 12. The movement follows Pickering's instructions for "Erect, Arms!" and the similar 1812 directions for "Carry, Arms!"
41. Lt. Col. Humphery Bland, *A Treatise on Military Discipline*, 4th ed., London: Samuel Buckley, 1740, p. 8.
42. *Ordonance du Roy*, 1755, p. 8.
43. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part I, p. 10.
44. Faucitt, *Regulations for the Prussian Infantry*, 1759, p. 43.
45. *The Manual Exercise, as Ordered by His Majesty*, 1764. New York: H. Gaine, 1775, p. 8.
46. *Ordonnance du Roi*, 1766, p. 61.
47. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 43.
48. *Regulations*, 1779, p. 12.
49. Lacroix, *op. cit.*, p. 13.
50. "Treatise on Military Affairs," *loc. cit.*
51. Duane, *System of Discipline and Manoeuvres of Infantry*, 1807, p. 12.
52. U.S. War Department, *Regulations for the Field Exercise, Manoeuvres, and Conduct of Infantry of the United States*, 1812, p. 6.

Chapter X

THE FIRINGS

Although the rudiments of loading and firing the firelock are reviewed in the Manual Exercise, the motions are usually performed without powder and ball and under parade conditions at open ranks. The loading and firing of the firelock in combat requires the use of live ammunition and close order formations resulting in some minor but important variations from the procedures of the Manual Exercise. The instructions for firing include priming and loading the firelock, making ready and firing in ranks, and the various modes of ceasing fire.

Priming and Loading

The *Regulations* explain the priming and loading of the unloaded firelock in fifteen motions [1] from the shouldered position of the individual soldier of the front rank. The deviations from the manual exercise for priming and loading in two ranks substitute the movement of *Recover, Arms!* for *Poise, Firelock!* and add the operation of opening the pan. For training purposes the group under instruction can be exercised as either front or rear rank by use of the preparatory command, "As Front Rank" or "As Rear Rank." The phrases are dropped when both ranks are at close order. The motions are divided into distinct operations for the purpose of instruction to the individual soldier as outlined below and as illustrated in this chapter and Chapter 8:

Prime and Load! (from *Shoulder, Firelock*)

1st. Count	(<i>Recover</i>)	
Part 1	<i>Spring Up Piece</i>	Figure 10-1
Part 2	<i>Turn Piece</i>	Figure 10-2
2nd. Count	(<i>Assume Priming Position</i>)	
Part 1	<i>Bring Down Piece</i>	Figure 10-3
Part 2	<i>Thumb Hammer</i>	Figure 10-4
3rd. Count	<i>Open Pan</i>	Figure 10-5
4th. Count	<i>Handle Cartridge</i>	
Part 1	<i>Strike Box</i>	Figure 8-12
Part 2	<i>Grasp Cartridge</i>	Figure 8-13
Part 3	<i>Bite Cartridge</i>	Figure 8-14
Part 4	<i>Tear Cartridge</i>	Figure 8-15

5th. Count	<i>Prime</i>	
Part 1	<i>Hand to Pan</i>	Figure 8-16
Part 2	<i>Fill Pan</i>	Figure 8-17
Part 3	<i>Handle Hammer</i>	Figure 8-18
6th. Count	<i>Shut Pan</i>	Figure 8-19
7th. Count	<i>Cast About</i>	Figure 8-20
8th. Count	<i>Load (Charge with Cartridge)</i>	Figure 8-21
9th. Count	<i>Load (Grasp Rammer)</i>	Figure 8-22
10th. Count	<i>Draw Rammer</i>	
Part 1	<i>Half-Draw Rammer</i>	Figure 8-23
Part 2	<i>Regrasp Rammer</i>	Figure 8-24
11th. Count	<i>Draw Rammer (continued)</i>	
Part 1	<i>Clear Rammer</i>	Figure 8-25
Part 2	<i>Turn Rammer</i>	Figure 8-26
Part 3	<i>Insert Rammer</i>	Figure 8-27
Part 4	<i>Start Cartridge</i>	Figure 8-28
12th. Count	<i>Ram Down Cartridge</i>	
Part 1	<i>Regrasp Rammer</i>	Figure 8-29
Part 2	<i>Ram Down</i>	Figure 8-30
Part 3	<i>Half-Draw Rammer</i>	Figure 8-31
Part 4	<i>Regrasp Rammer</i>	Figure 8-32
Part 5	<i>Clear Rammer</i>	Figure 8-33
Part 6	<i>Turn Rammer</i>	Figure 8-34
Part 7	<i>Insert Rammer</i>	Figure 8-35
Part 8	<i>Handle Rammer Butt</i>	Figure 8-36
13th. Count	<i>Return Rammer</i>	
Part 1	<i>Seat Rammer</i>	Figure 8-37
Part 2	<i>Raise Piece</i>	Figure 8-38
14th. Count	<i>Shoulder Firelock (Grasp Butt)</i>	Figure 8-39
15th. Count	<i>Shoulder Firelock (Drop Right Hand)</i>	Figure 8-40

When priming and loading during the firings, the fifteen motions are performed without any "sensible pause" [2] between the motions, except that the firelocks are not to be cast about until all the pans are shut, and, after a small wait, the loading and shouldering are completed as soon as possible. [3]

Under certain conditions during modern demonstrations of the loading and firing of the firelock the use of the rammer is eliminated for safety considerations to avoid the possibility of leaving the rammer in the barrel and unintentionally firing it into spectators or other participants. This can be accomplished by omitting the second part of the ninth command (*Load, Grasp Rammer*) through Part 1 (*Seat Rammer*) of the thirteenth command (*Return Rammer*) for priming

and loading, thereby proceeding directly from charging the powder into the muzzle to shouldering.

Firing in Ranks

In von Steuben's two-rank system the ranks are spaced 24 inches heel-to-heel and the files are separated sufficiently to maintain a light touch of the elbows. The ranks are sized "with the tallest in the rear and the shortest men of each in the centre." [4] This arrangement insures that every rear-rank man will be firing from a height slightly above the file ahead of him. All ranks are required to keep the position of the left heel fixed during the loading and firing to prevent their loss of position and dress. The right foot of the rear rank is moved six inches to the right at the time of cocking to place barrel of the rear rank when aiming in the interval between the files of the front rank. The rear rank is instructed to take aim "*As before explained*" [5] [italics: EWP]. This instruction has been interpreted in this work to mean as explained in Command III (*Take Aim!*) of the Manual Exercise. The instruction of this command specifies that the soldier will "step back about six inches with the right foot" [6] and in this case the movement would commence from the previous position of the right heel eight inches (the normal two inches when standing at attention plus the additional six inches taken on cocking) to the right.

The sequence of firing in ranks consists of making ready (cocking), aiming, firing, resuming the priming position and half-cocking. In the *Regulations* and in Pickering's "General Directions for the Firings" the priming and loading proceeds without command immediately after the discharge. [7] The firelock is brought to the priming position with the right hand on the cock, [8] the lock set on half-cock, [9] and the motions for priming and loading are completed. If the formation is at open ranks, both ranks may be exercised as front or rear rank. The following movements are described and illustrated for firing as either rank:

<i>As Front (Rear) Rank! Make, Ready!</i> (from <i>Shoulder, Firelock</i>)		
First Count	<i>(Recover Arms)</i>	
Part 1	<i>Spring Up Piece</i>	Figure 10-6
Part 2	<i>Turn Piece</i>	Figure 10-7
Part 3	<i>Thumb Cock</i>	Figure 10-8
Part 4	<i>Full Cock</i>	
	<i>As Front Rank</i>	Figure 10-9
	<i>As Rear Rank</i>	Figure 10-10
Part 5	<i>Thumb Breech Pin</i>	
	<i>As Front Rank</i>	Figure 10-11
	<i>As Rear Rank</i>	Figure 10-12
<i>Take Aim!</i>		
First Count	<i>Take Aim</i>	
	<i>As Front Rank</i>	Figure 10-13
	<i>As Rear Rank</i>	Figure 10-14
<i>Fire!</i>		
First Count		
Part 1	<i>Pull Trigger</i>	

	<i>As Front Rank</i>	Figure 10-15
	<i>As Rear Rank</i>	Figure 10-16
Part 2	<i>Assume Priming Position</i>	Figure 10-17
Part 3	<i>Grasp Cock</i>	Figure 10-18
Part 4	<i>Half-Cock</i>	Figure 10-19

When both ranks are to fire at close order, the commands are reduced to:

Make, Ready!
Take, Aim!
Fire!

Continuing to Load

If the commander wants to continue the firing after the priming position is assumed and the lock is set on half-cock, he can give the command "*Prime and Load!*" As the pan has been opened by the action of the cock striking the hammer during the firing, the priming and loading can begin with the motion of *Handle, Cartridge!* The following thirteen motions are required to load from this situation:

<i>Prime and Load!</i> (from <i>Half-Cock</i>)		
1st. Count	<i>Handle, Cartridge</i>	Figures 8-12 to 8-15
2nd. Count	<i>Prime</i>	Figures 8-16 to 8-18
3rd. Count	<i>Shut, Pan</i>	Figure 8-19
4th. Count	<i>Cast About</i>	Figure 8-20
5th. and 6th Counts	<i>Load</i>	Figures 8-21 and 8-22
7th. and 8th. Counts	<i>Draw, Rammer</i>	Figures 8-23 to 8-28
9th. and 10th. Counts	<i>Ram down, Cartridge</i>	Figures 8-29 to 8-36
11th. Count	<i>Return, Rammer</i>	Figures 8-37 and 8-38
12th. and 13th. Counts	<i>Shoulder, Firelock</i>	Figures 8-39 and 8-40

Ceasing Fire

The *Regulations* mention only two provisions for interrupting the firing. The first is the command "*As You Were!*" which brought the troops from the position of aiming to recover when it was desired to "accustom the soldier not to fire till he receives the word of command." [10] The second is the beating of the drum after the command "*Fire!*" which required the loading to be completed and the firelock to be brought to the shoulder. Two additional contemporary procedures permitted the firelock to be shouldered from the position of recover or the priming position.

Ceasing Fire from the Position of Half-Cock

When the priming position at half-cock is assumed after firing, fire can be ceased by commanding the firelock to be shouldered. The procedure for this movement is not described in the *Regulations*, but was practiced by the French [11] and introduced into the American armies [12] after the Revolution. Following the preparatory command, "*Shoulder —*", the pan is closed and the right hand seizes the small of the stock, the soldier remaining at the priming position. On the command of execution, "*— Firelock!*" the piece is shouldered. As this movement is useful in preventing undesired loading of the firelock after the

firings, the motions have been taken from late 18th century French and early 19th century American practices and are described and illustrated in the following sequence:

<i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i> (from <i>Half-Cock</i>)		
First Count	<i>Shoulder—</i>	
Part 1	<i>Handle Hammer</i>	Figure 10-20
Part 2	<i>Close Pan</i>	Figure 10-21
Part 3	<i>Grasp Small</i>	Figure 10-22
Second Count	<i>— Firelock!</i>	
	<i>(Shoulder Piece)</i>	Figure 10-23
Third Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 10-24

Ceasing Fire from the Position of Aiming

The firing can be suspended from the aiming position by the command "*As You Were!*" [13] The *Regulations* do not describe the position to be taken in response to this command, but the traditional movement among contemporary armies was to assume the position of *Recover, Arms!* The corresponding position would be that held immediately before taking the position of *Aim*, and, in the case of the *Regulations*, this would be the final movement of *Make, Ready!* for the front and rear rank. Both ranks would have their firelocks at the recover at full cock with the thumb of the right hand on the breech pin and the forefinger below the trigger guard. The front rank would stand with the right foot on a line with and two inches from the right of the left heel as prescribed for the position of the soldier. The rear rank would bring the right foot in line with, but eight inches from, the right of the left heel in agreement with the position of the feet after cocking as rear rank. The firing can be resumed from this position by the command, "*Aim!*" at which time the ranks step back six inches with the right foot and bring the firelock down to the level. The motions of "*As You Were!*" are described and illustrated as follows:

<i>As You Were!</i> (from <i>Aim</i>)		
First Count	<i>Recover Arms</i>	
	<i>As Front Rank</i>	Figure 10-25
	<i>As Rear Rank</i>	Figure 10-26

Ceasing Fire from the Position of Recover

The fire can be terminated also from the position of recover by the command, "*Shoulder, Firelock!*" as explained by Pickering. [14] The *Regulations* do not describe this movement, but it is useful for restoring a loaded, cocked firelock to a safe condition at the shoulder. The movement is accomplished in two phases beginning with the preparatory command, "*Shoulder —*" At this command the piece is held in the position of recover and the cock is reset in half-cock from the full cock position by the action of the thumb on the cock and the forefinger on the trigger. At the time that the lock is set on half-cock and the thumb is replaced on the breech pin, both ranks

should assume the position equivalent to the first motion of *Make, Ready!* The front rank would stand fast and the rear rank would bring the right heel to within two inches of the left. At the command, "*— Firelock!*" the piece is shouldered. The motions are described and illustrated in the following sequence:

<i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i> (from <i>Recover, Arms</i>)		
First Count	<i>Shoulder—</i>	
Part 1	<i>Half-Cock</i>	Figure 10-27
Part 2	<i>Thumb Breech Pin</i>	Figure 10-28
Second Count	<i>— Firelock</i>	
	<i>(Shoulder Piece)</i>	Figure 10-29
Third Count	<i>Drop Right Hand</i>	Figure 10-30

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Load As Front Or Rear Rank:

PRIME AND LOAD! (15 Counts)

First Count (*Recover Arms*)

Part 1 (*Spring Up Piece*) Figure 10-1

1. Throw up the piece smartly with the left hand before the left breast.
2. At the same time, rotate the barrel to the right with the left hand, the:
 - a. Forepart of the palm pushing to the right against the heel of the butt.
 - b. Last two fingers pulling the toe of the butt to the left.
3. Raise the right hand quickly from the right side.
4. Catch the piece with the right hand at the small of the stock, the:
 - a. Arm across the breast.

- b. Forefinger under and against the guard.
- c. Thumb behind the small of the stock.
5. Let go the butt with the left hand.

First Count, Part 2 (*Turn Piece*) Figure 10-2

1. Grasp the piece smartly with the left hand above the lock, turning the barrel completely to the rear, the:
 - a. Forefinger at the height of the eyes.
 - b. Thumb upright along the stock.
2. Hold the piece near, but not touching, the body opposite the left side of the face, the:
 - a. Barrel vertical.
 - b. Elbows down without constraint. [15]

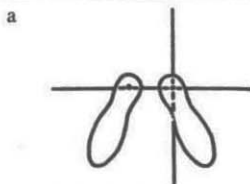


Fig. 10-1 Position of *Prime and Load, First Count, Part 1* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

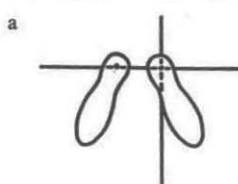


Fig. 10-2 Position of *Prime and Load, First Count, Part 2* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

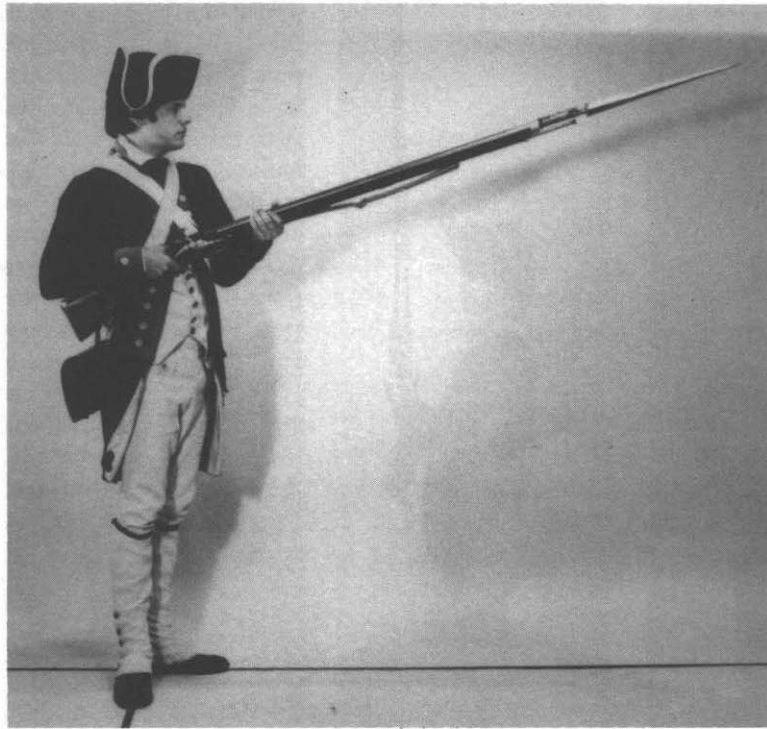
Second Count (*Assume Priming Position*)

Part 1 (*Bring Down Piece*) Figure 10-3

1. Make a half-face to the right turning on both heels, the: [16]
 - a. Right toe directed to the right flank.
 - b. Left toe to the front.
2. At the same time, bring the piece down quickly with both hands, the:
 - a. Butt under the right armpit and right forearm.
 - b. Small of the stock pressed against the body.
 - c. Lock opposite the right breast.
 - d. Guard turned out a little.
 - e. Left elbow supported against the side and carried to the right as far as the center of the body.
 - f. Left forearm nearly perpendicular.
 - g. Piece resting on the palm of the left hand.
 - h. Left hand halfway between the feather spring and the swell.
 - i. Left thumb extended forward along the stock and the fingers closed.
 - j. Barrel pointed straight to the front.
 - k. Muzzle raised to the height of the top of the hat of the man in the front rank.
 - l. Piece held firm and steady.
 - m. Shoulders on a line inclined approximately 45 degrees to the front.



a



b

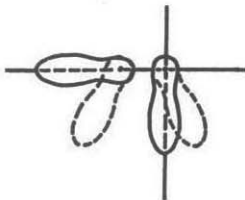


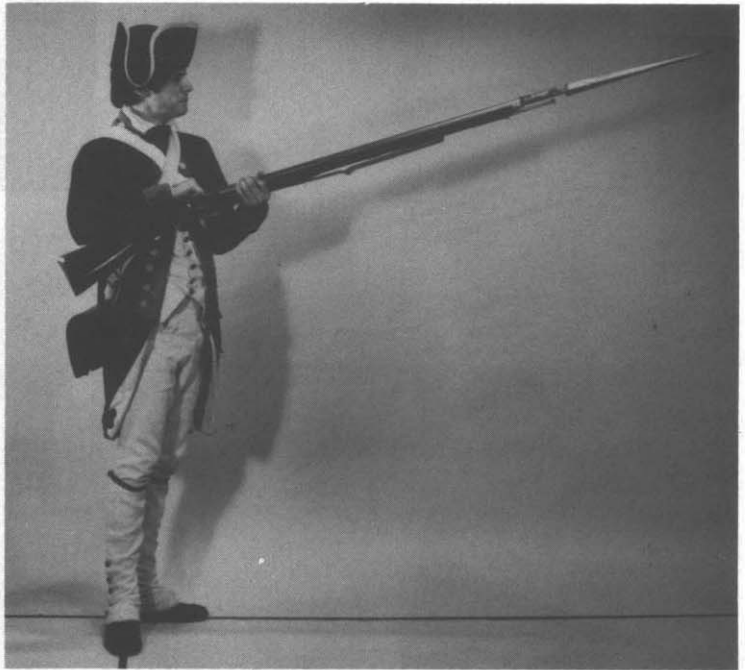
Fig. 10-3 Position of *Prime and Load, Second Count, Part 1* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Second Count, Part 2 (*Thumb Hammer*) Figure 10-4

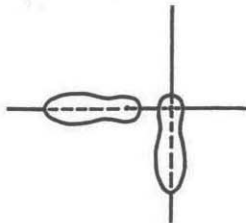
1. Let go the small of the stock with the right hand as soon as the muzzle reaches the height of the hat.
2. Place the thumb of the right hand against the face of the hammer above the flint. [17] (Figure 10-4c), the:
 - a. Back of the hand up.
 - b. Fingers clinched.
 - c. Elbow turned out slightly to clear the wrist from the cock.



a



b



c

Fig. 10-4 Position of *Prime and Load*, *Second Count, Part 2* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right thumb on the face of the hammer viewed at (c) from the left flank.

Third Count (*Open Pan*) Figure 10-5

1. Push the hammer forward with the right thumb opening the pan. (Figure 10-5c)
2. Close the right elbow to the butt.
3. Keep the piece steady in the left hand.

The twelve remaining motions are completed as described in Chapter VIII.

4th Count	<i>Handle, Cartridge!</i>	Figure 8-15
5th Count	<i>Prime!</i>	Figure 8-18
6th Count	<i>Shut, Pan!</i>	Figure 8-19
7th Count	<i>Cast, About!</i>	Figure 8-20
8th Count	<i>Load!</i>	Figure 8-21
9th Count	<i>Load! (Cont.)</i>	Figure 8-22
10th Count	<i>Draw, Rammer!</i>	Figure 8-23
11th Count	<i>Draw, Rammer! (Cont.)</i>	Figure 8-24
12th Count	<i>Ram Down, Cartridge!</i>	Figure 8-36
13th Count	<i>Return, Rammer!</i>	Figure 8-38
14th Count	<i>Shoulder, Firelock!</i>	Figure 8-39
15th Count	<i>Shoulder, Firelock! (Cont.)</i>	Figure 8-40

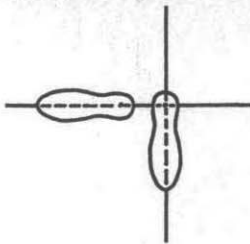
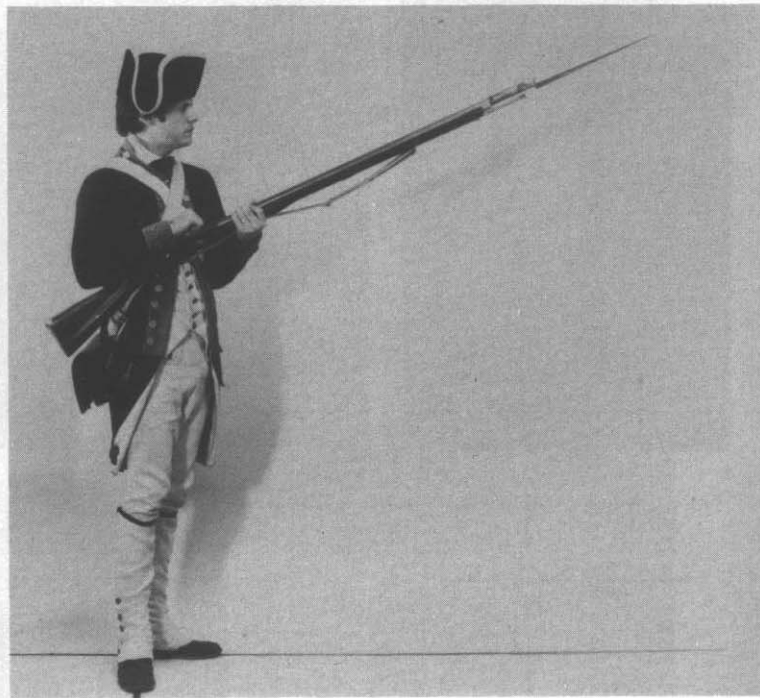


Fig. 10-5 Position of *Prime* and *Load*, *Third Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right thumb opening the pan viewed at (c) from the rear.

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Fire:

As *Front* (or *Rear*) Rank! Make — *READY!* (One Count)

First Count, Part 1 (*Spring Up Piece*) Figure 10-6

1. Throw up the piece smartly with the left hand before the left breast.
2. At the same time, rotate the barrel to the right with the left hand, the:
 - a. Forepart of the palm pushing to the right against the heel of the butt.
 - b. Last two fingers pulling the toe of the butt to the left.
3. Raise the right hand quickly from the right side.
4. Catch the piece with the right hand at the small of the stock, the:
 - a. Arm across the breast.

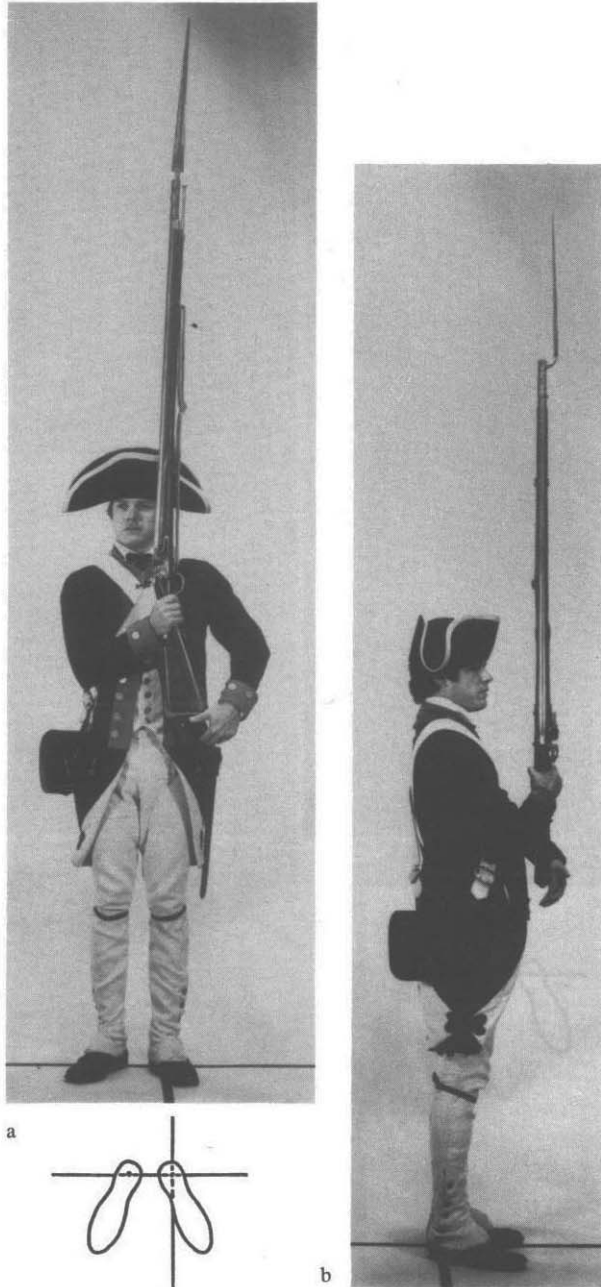


Fig. 10-6 Position of *Make, Ready* (*As Front or Rear Rank*), *First Count, Part 1* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

- b. Forefinger under and against the guard.
 - c. Thumb behind the small of the stock.
5. Let go butt with the left hand.

First Count, Part 2 (*Turn Piece*) Figure 10-7

1. Grasp the piece smartly with the left hand above the lock, turning the barrel completely to the rear, the:
 - a. Forefinger at the height of the eyes.
 - b. Thumb upright along the stock.
2. Hold the piece near, but not touching, the body opposite the left side of the face, the:
 - a. Barrel vertical.
 - b. Body straight and as full to the front as possible.
 - c. Head up and looking well to the right.

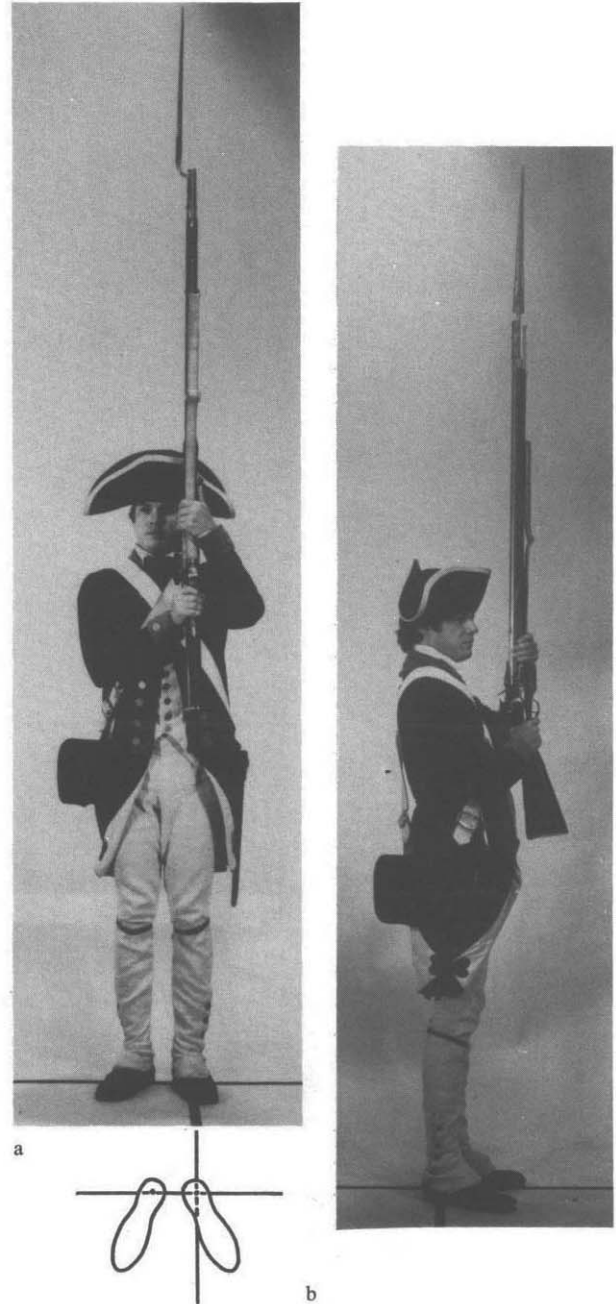


Fig. 10-7 Position of *Make, Ready* (*As Front or Rear Rank*), *First Count, Part 2* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

First Count, Part 3 (*Thumb Cock*) Figure 10-8

1. Place the right thumb over the top jaw of the cock and in front of the cock pin. (Figure 10-8c)
2. Place the forefinger under and against the guard and the others joined to the first.
3. Raise the right elbow to the height of the right hand.

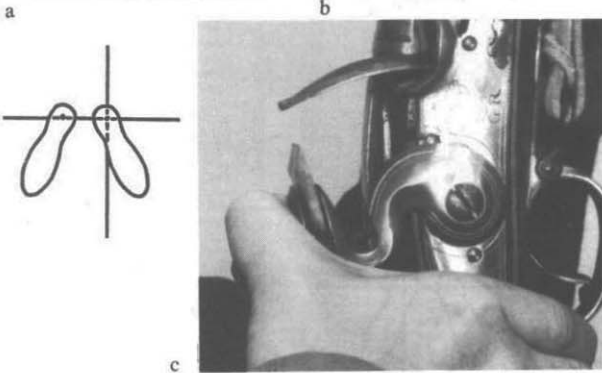


Fig. 10-8 Position of *Make, Ready (As Front or Rear Rank), First Count, Part 3* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the thumb of the right hand on the cock viewed at (c) from the right flank.

First Count, Part 4, *As Front Rank (Full Cock)* Figure 10-9

1. Lower the right elbow briskly.
2. Force the cock down to the full cock position with the right thumb. (Figure 10-9c)

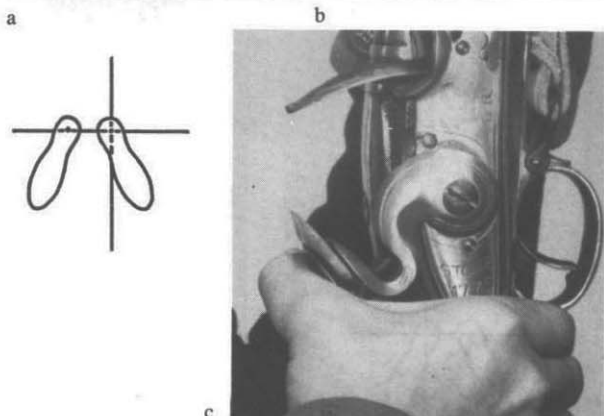
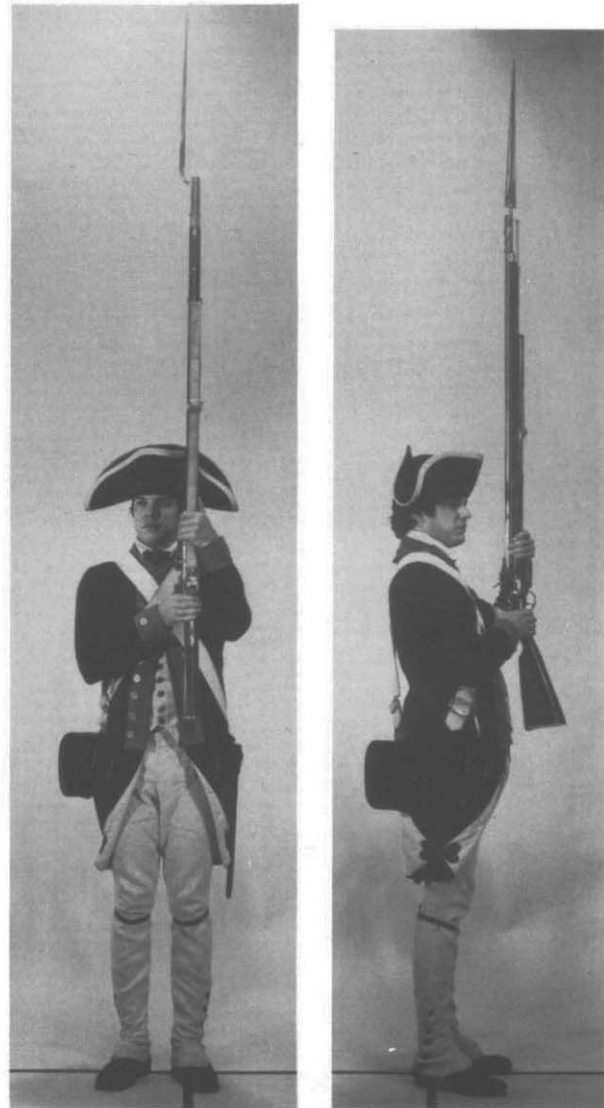


Fig. 10-9 Position of *Make, Ready (As Front Rank), First Count, Part 4* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right thumb forcing the lock to full cock viewed at (c) from the right flank.

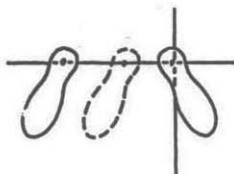
First Count, Part 4, As Rear Rank (*Full Cock*) Figure 10-10

1. Lower the right elbow briskly.
2. Force the cock down to the full cock position with the right thumb.
3. At the same time, step six inches to the right with the right foot.



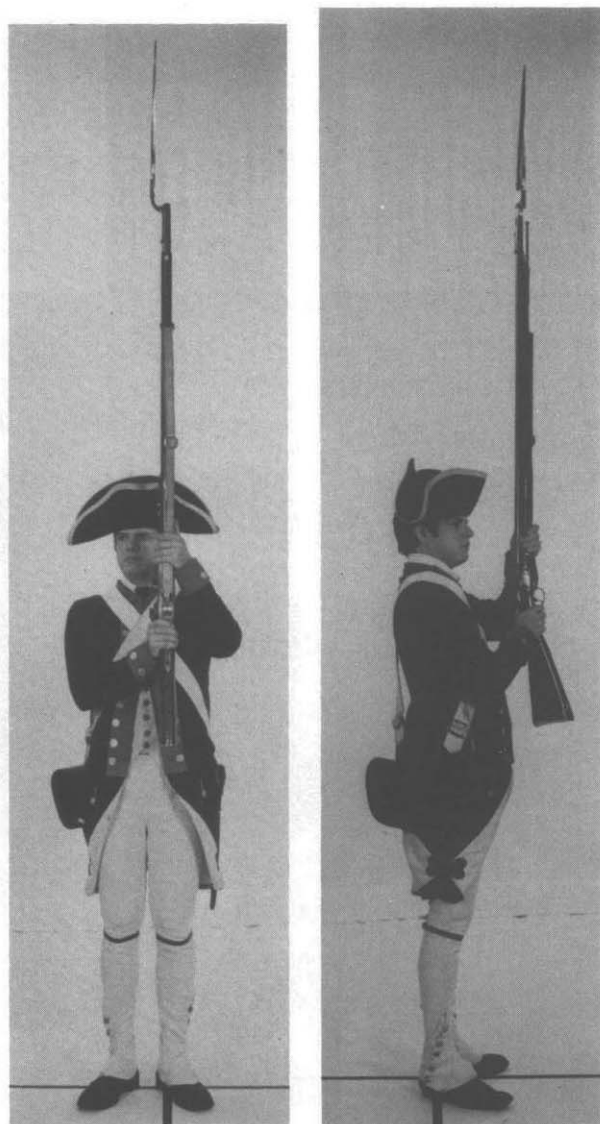
a

b



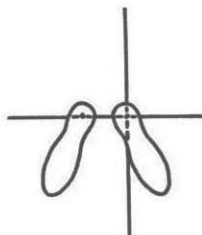
First Count, Part 5, As Front Rank (*Thumb Breech Pin*) Figure 10-11

1. Remove the right thumb from the cock and place it on the breech pin. (Figure 10-11c)



a

b



c

Fig. 10-10 Position of *Make, Ready (As Rear Rank), First Count, Part 4* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

Fig. 10-11 Position of *Make, Ready (As Front Rank), First Count, Part 5* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right thumb on the breech pin viewed at (c) from the right flank.

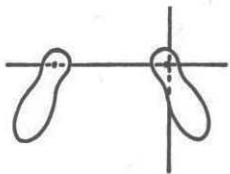
First Count, Part 5, As Rear Rank (*Thumb Breech Pin*) Figure 10-12

1. Remove the right thumb from the cock and place it on the breech pin.



a

b



BEING AT READY, To Aim:

TAKE AIM! (One Count)

First Count, As Front Rank (*Take Aim*) Figure 10-13

1. Step back about six inches with the right foot.
2. Turn the left foot on the heel and bring the toe to the front.
3. Drop the muzzle of the piece directly to the front.
4. Place the butt end against the right shoulder.
5. Slide the left hand forward to the swell of the stock, the left thumb pointing forward.
6. Place the forefinger of the right hand before the trigger.
7. Keep the right thumb on the breech pin.
8. Lower the elbows without constraint.
9. Lower the muzzle slightly below the horizontal.
10. Lean the right cheek on the butt of the piece.
11. Shut the left eye.
12. Look along the barrel with the right eye from breech pin to the sight at the object to be fired upon.



a

b

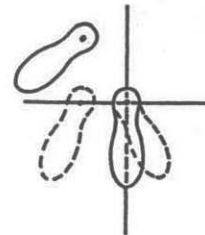


Fig. 10-12 Position of *Make, Ready* (As Rear Rank), *First Count, Part 5* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

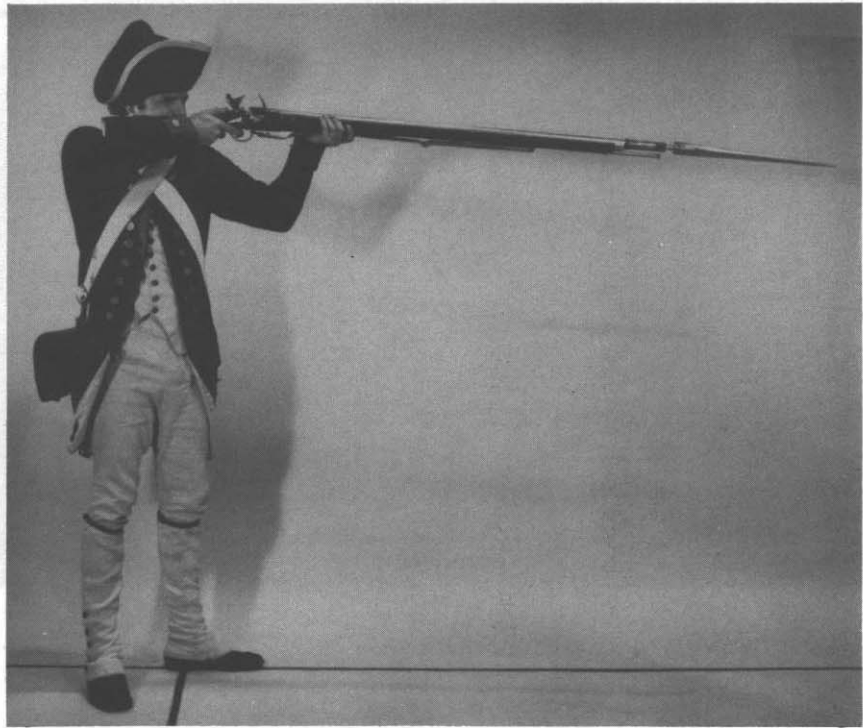
Fig. 10-13 Position of *Take, Aim* (As Front Rank), *First Count* from *Make, Ready* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

First Count, As Rear Rank (*Take Aim*) Figure 10-14

1. Step back about six inches with the right foot.
2. Turn the left foot on the heel and bring the toe to the front.
3. Drop the muzzle of the piece directly to the front.
4. Place the butt end against the right shoulder.
5. Slide the left hand forward to the swell of the stock, the left thumb pointing forward.
6. Place the forefinger of the right hand before the trigger.
7. Keep the right thumb on the breech pin.
8. Lower the muzzle slightly below the horizontal.
10. Lean the right cheek on the butt of the piece.
11. Shut the left eye.
12. Look along the barrel with the right eye from breech pin to the sight at the object to be fired upon.



a



b

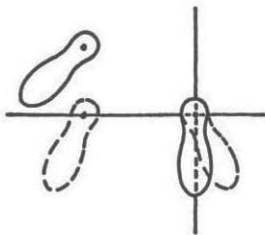


Fig. 10-14 Position of *Take Aim (As Rear Rank)*, *First Count* from *Make Ready* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING AIMED, To Fire:

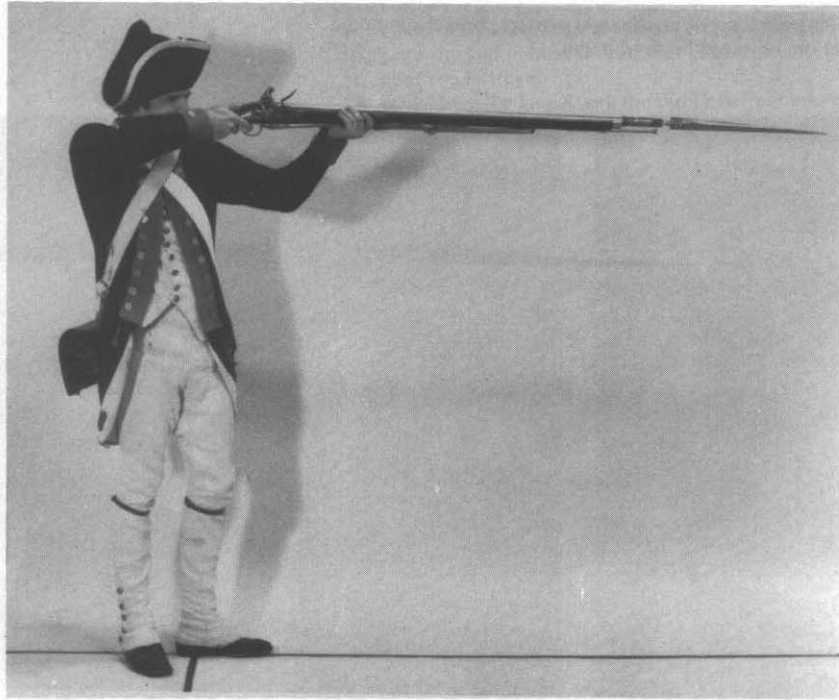
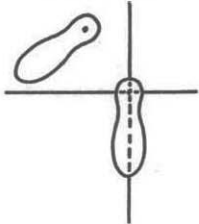
Fire! (One Count) Figure 10-15

First Count, Part 1. As Front Rank (*Pull Trigger*)

1. Pull the trigger with the forefinger of the right hand.



a



b

Fig. 10-15 Position of Fire (As Front Rank), First Count, Part 1 from *Take, Aim* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

First Count, Part 1, As Rear Rank (*Pull Trigger*) Figure 10-16
1. Pull the trigger with the forefinger of the right hand.

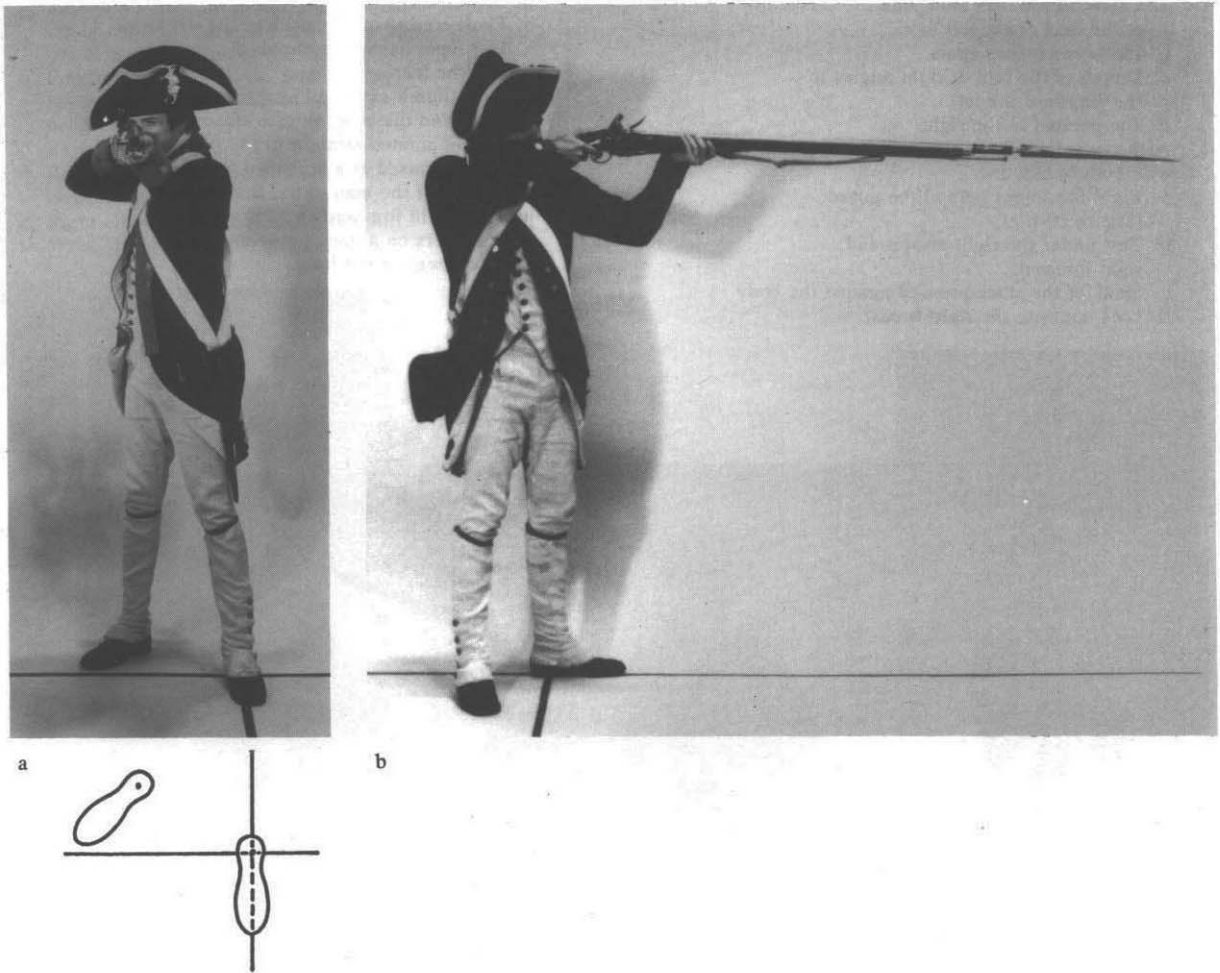
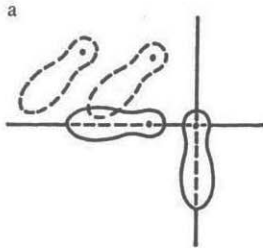


Fig. 10-16 Position of Fire (*As Rear Rank*), *First Count, Part 1* from *Take, Aim* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

First Count, Part 2, As Front and Rear Rank (*Assume Priming Position*) Figure 10-17

1. Keep the left foot in place with the toe pointed to the front.
2. Bring the right foot forward, the:
 - a. Center of the heel alongside the center of the heel of the left foot.
 - b. Heels two inches apart.
 - c. Length of the foot at right angles to the length of the left.
 - d. Toe pointed to the right.
3. At the same time, bring the piece down quickly to the right side with both hands, the:
 - a. Right forefinger behind the guard. (Figure 10-17c)
 - b. Butt under the right armpit and right forearm.
 - c. Small of the stock pressed against the body.
 - d. Lock opposite the right breast.
 - e. Guard turned out a little.
 - f. Left elbow supported against the side and carried to the right as far as the center of the body.
 - g. Left forearm nearly perpendicular.
 - h. Piece resting on the palm of the left hand.
 - i. Left hand halfway between the swell and the feather spring.
 - j. Left thumb extended forward along the stock and the other fingers closed.
 - k. Barrel pointed straight to the front.
 - l. Muzzle raised at a height to clear the hat of the man of the front rank.
 - m. Piece held firm and steady.
 - n. Shoulders on a line approximately 45 degrees to the front.



b



Fig. 10-17 Position of Fire (*As Front and Rear Rank*), *First Count, Part 2* from *Take, Aim* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the small of the stock viewed at (c) from the right flank.

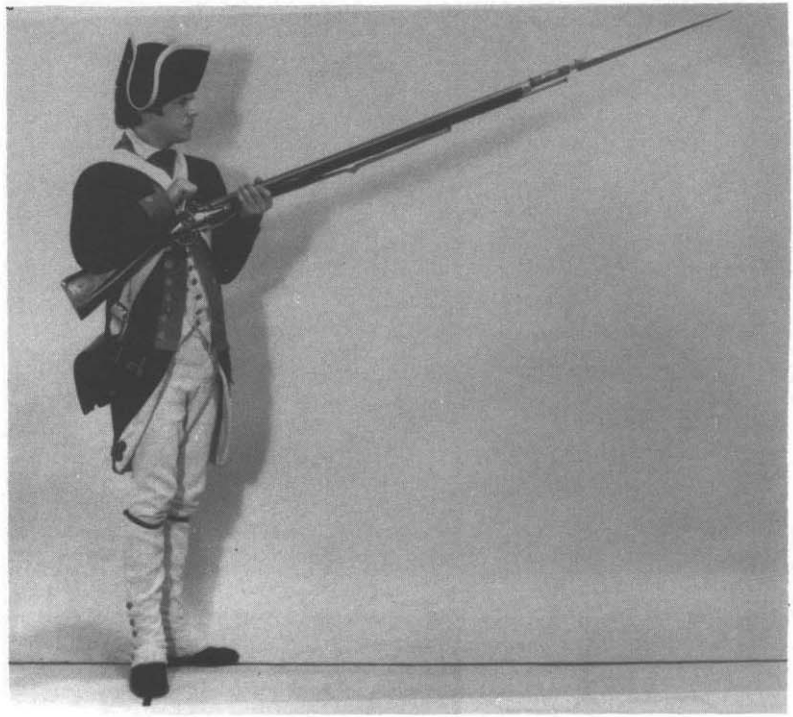
c

First Count, Part 3. As Front and Rear Rank (*Grasp Cock*) Figure 10-18

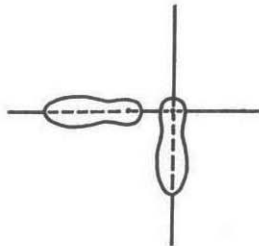
- I. Grasp the cock with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand (Figure 10-18c), the:
 - a. Thumb pointed forward and placed on top of the upper jaw and resting on the left side of the head of the cock pin.
 - b. Forefinger bent with the middle joint resting on the right side of the head of the cock pin.
 - c. Back of the hand up.
 - d. Remaining fingers closed but not clenched hard.
 - e. Right elbow raised just above the butt.
 - f. Wrist straight.



a



b



c

Fig. 10-18 Position of Fire (*As Front and Rear Rank*), *First Count, Part 3* from *Take Aim* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand on the cock viewed at (c) from left flank.

First Count, Part 4, As Front and Rear Rank (*Half Cock*) Figure 10-19

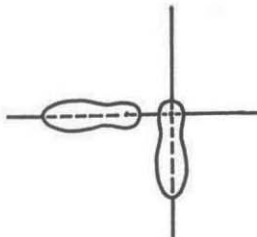
1. Draw the right arm to the rear (Figure 10-19c), the:
 - a. Cock pulled to the half-cock position [18], taking care not to full-cock.
 - b. Left hand resisting the tension of the main spring of the lock and keeping the piece in position.
 - c. Right elbow lowered to the butt of the piece.



a



b



c

Fig. 10-19 Position of Fire (*As Front and Rear Rank*), *First Count, Part 4* from *Take, Aim* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right hand drawing the lock to half-cock viewed at (c) from the right flank.

BEING AT HALF-COCK AFTER FIRING, To Load:

PRIME AND LOAD! (Thirteen Counts)

Perform the motions as described and illustrated in Chapter VIII FOR:

- a. Handle, Cartridge (One Count)
- b. Prime (One Count)
- c. Shut, Pan (One Count)
- d. Cast, About (One Count)
- e. Load (Two Counts)
- f. Draw, Rammer (Two Counts)
- g. Ram Down, Cartridge (One Count)
- h. Return, Rammer (One Count)
- i. Shoulder, Firelock (Two Counts)

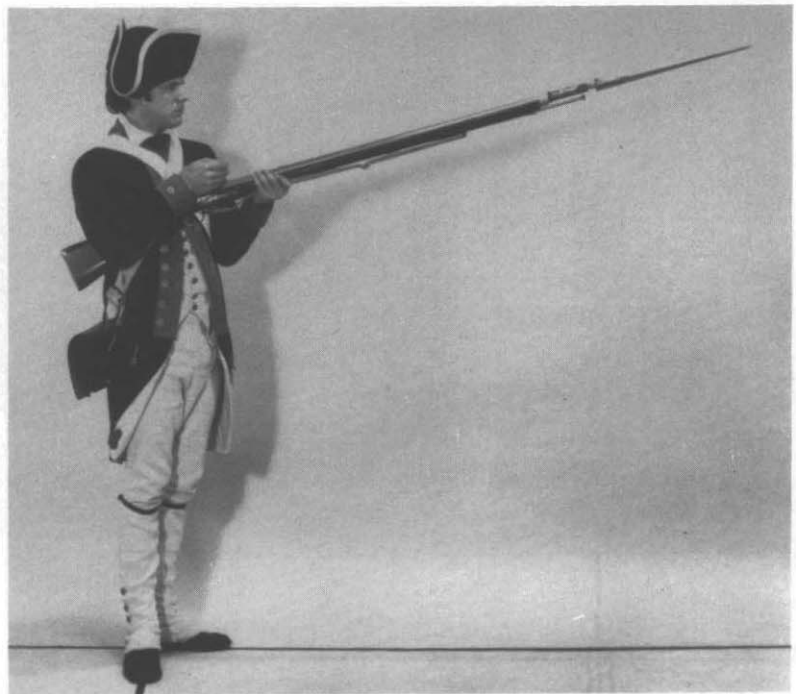
- Figure 8-15
- Figure 8-18
- Figure 8-19
- Figure 8-20
- Figure 8-22
- Figure 8-24
- Figure 8-36
- Figure 8-38
- Figure 8-40

BEING AT HALF-COCK AFTER FIRING, To Cease Fire:

Shoulder! — (Three Counts)

First Count, Part 1 (*Handle Hammer*) Figure 10-20

- 1. Place the last three fingers of the right hand before the back of the hammer, the:
 - a. Elbow up.
 - b. Wrist arched slightly to avoid the edge of the flint.



a

b

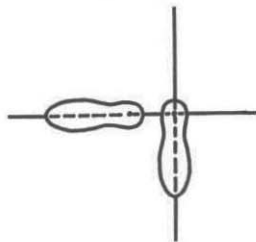


Fig. 10-20 Position of *Shoulder*—, *First Count, Part 1* from *Half-Cock, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

First Count, Part 2 (*Close Pan*) Figure 10-21

1. Draw the right arm back, closing the pan briskly with the last three fingers, the:
 - a. Elbow brought down to the butt of the piece.
 - b. Left hand resisting the tension of the feather spring.



a



b

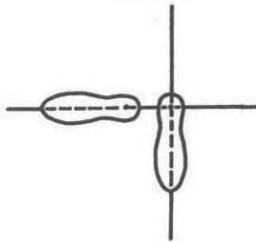


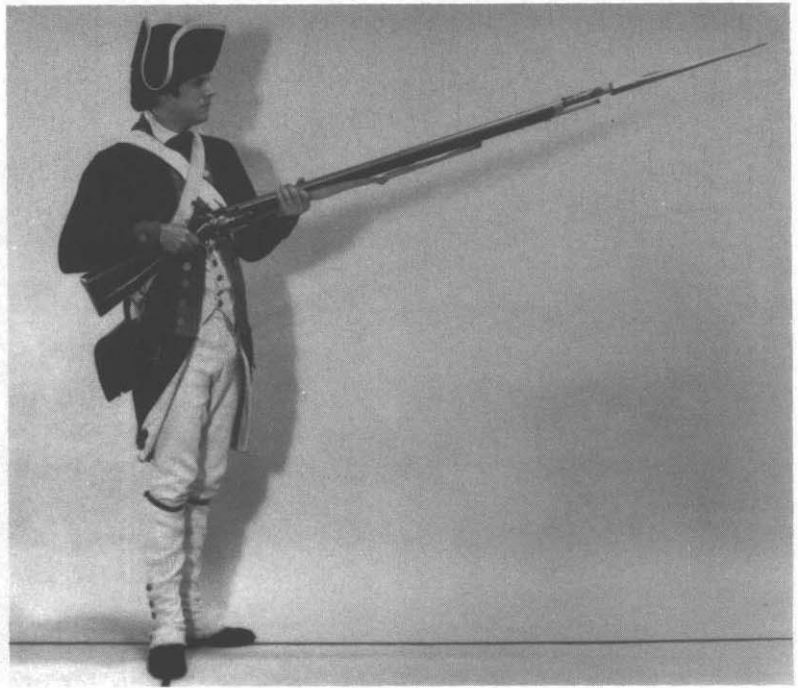
Fig. 10-21 Position of *Shoulder*—, *First Count, Part 2* from *Half-Cock, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

First Count, Part 3 (*Grasp Small*) Figure 10-22

1. Grasp the small of the stock behind the lock with the right hand, the:
 - a. Fingers on the outside.
 - b. Thumb on the inside.
 - c. Elbow resting on the butt.
2. When all the pans are closed, give the command of execution.



a



b

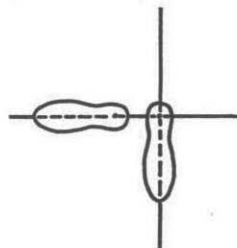


Fig. 10-22 Position of *Shoulder*—, *First Count, Part 3* from *Half-Cock, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

— FIRELOCK!

Second Count (*Shoulder Piece*) Figure 10-23

1. Face to the front on both heels.
2. Place the left eye over the center of the body.
3. Raise the piece to a vertical position before the left shoulder by:
 - a. Pulling up with the left hand at the swell of the stock.
 - b. Pushing down with the right hand at the small of the stock.
 - c. Turning the barrel to the front with the right hand.
4. Let go the swell of the stock with the left hand and bring it down hard on the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger over the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.

5. Regrasp the piece with the right hand, the:
 - a. First joint of the forefinger touching the comb of the cock.
 - b. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointing upward.
 - c. Fingers extended, joined, and pressed against the small of the stock.
 - d. Back of the hand to the front.

Third Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 10-24

1. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm toward the thigh.

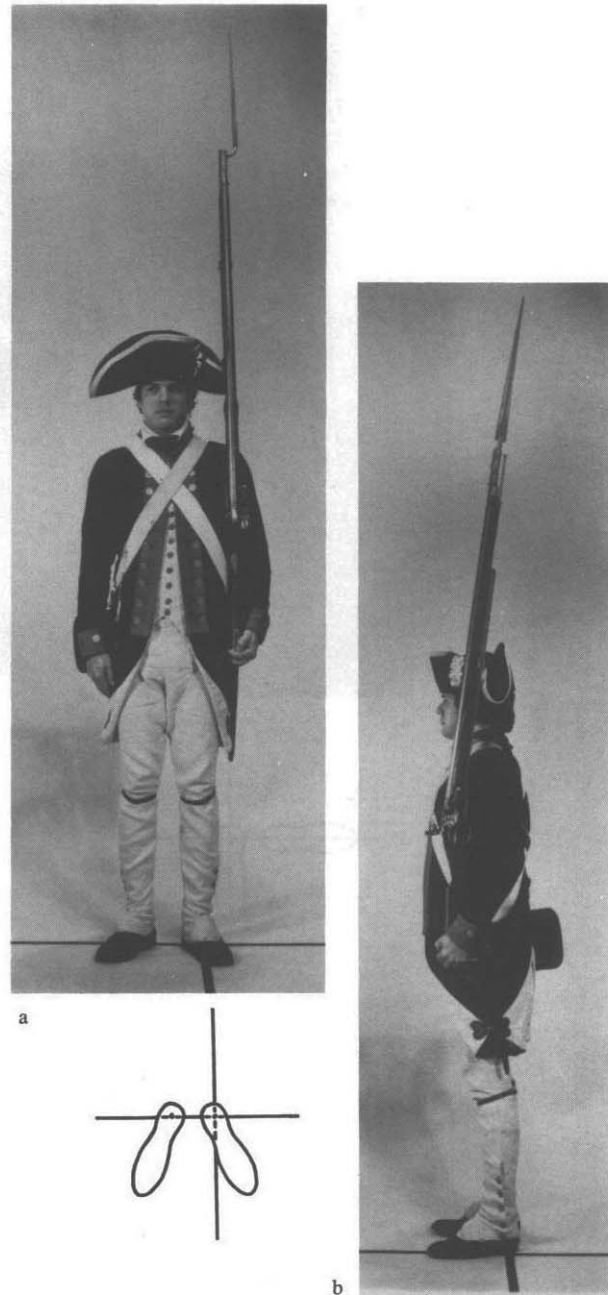


Fig. 10-23 Position of —Firelock, Second Count from Half-Cock, Firelock viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 10-24 Position of —Firelock, Third Count from Half-Cock, Firelock viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AIMED, To Interrupt The Firing:

AS YOU WERE! (One Count)

First Count, As Front Rank (*Recover Arms*)

Figure 10-25

1. Withdraw the finger from the trigger and place it behind the guard.
2. Turn the left toe out slightly to the left.
3. Bring up the right foot alongside and two inches from the left foot, the toe turned out slightly to the right.
4. At the same time, raise up the piece smartly with left hand before the left breast the:
 - a. Barrel vertical and to the rear.
 - b. Little finger resting on the bend of the feather spring. (Figure 10-25c)
 - c. Forefinger at the height of the eyes.
 - d. Thumb along the stock.
5. Hold the piece near, but not touching, the body opposite the left side of the face, the elbows down without constraint.



c



a



b

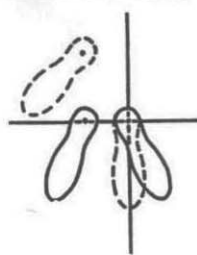


Fig. 10-25 Position of *As You Were* (*As Front Rank*), *First Count* from *Take, Aim* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the left hand at the feather spring viewed at (c) from the right flank.

First Count, As Rear Rank (*Recover Arms*)

Figure 10-26

1. Withdraw the finger from the trigger and place it behind the guard.
2. Turn the left toe out slightly to the left.
3. Bring up the right foot alongside and eight inches from the left, the toe turned out slightly to the right.
4. At the same time, raise up the piece smartly with the left hand before the left breast, the:
 - a. Barrel vertical and to the rear.
 - b. Little finger resting on the bend of the feather spring.
 - c. Forefinger at the height of the eyes.
 - d. Thumb along the stock.
5. Hold the piece near, but not touching, the body opposite the left side of the face, the elbows down without constraint.

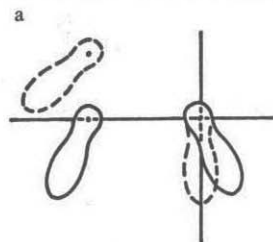
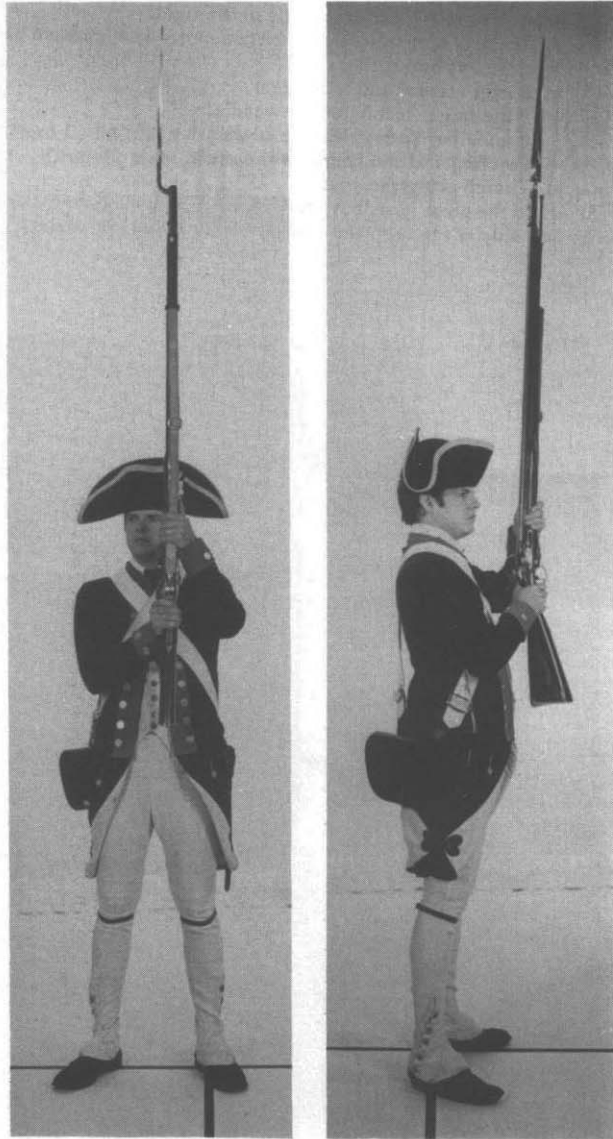


Fig. 10-26 Position of *As You Were* (*As Rear Rank*), *First Count* from *Take, Aim* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank.

BEING AT RECOVERED ARMS, To Cease Firing:
Shoulder! — (Three Counts)

First Count, Part 1, As Front and Rear Rank (*Half Cock*) Figure 10-27

1. Place the:
 - a. Right thumb over the top jaw of the cock and in front of the cock pin.
 - b. Right forefinger on the trigger (Figure 10-27c)
2. Raise the right elbow.
3. Lower the right elbow, pull down the cock with the thumb and release the sear from the full-cock notch by depressing the trigger.
4. Continue to depress the trigger to prevent the sear from engaging the half-cock notch and lower the cock until the flint almost touches the face of the hammer. (Figure 10-27d)
5. Remove the pressure from the trigger and pull down the cock until the sear engages the half-cock notch.

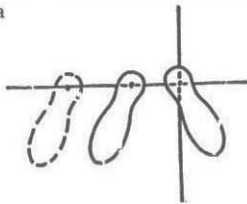
6. Place the finger of the right hand below the guard. (Figure 10-27e)
7. At the same time, the rear rank returns the heel of the right foot to within two inches of the left heel, the toe turned out slightly.
8. The front rank stands fast.



a



b



c



d



e

Fig. 10-27 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock* (As Front and Rear Rank), *First Count, Part 1* from *Recover, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Positions of the right thumb forcing the cock down at (c), the right forefinger releasing the sear at (d) and the thumb raising the lock to half-cock at (e) viewed from the right flank.

First Count, Part 2, As Front and Rear Rank (*Thumb Breech Pin*)

Figure 10-28

1. Place the right thumb on the breech pin. (Figure 10-28c)
2. Drop the right elbow to the side.
3. When all the pieces are half-cocked, give the command of execution.



a



b



c

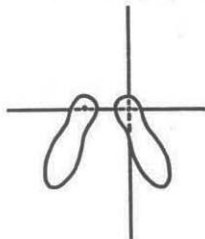


Fig. 10-28 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock* (As Front and Rear Rank), *First Count, Part 2* from *Recover, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the right flank. Position of the right thumb on the breech pin viewed (c) from the right flank.

— FIRELOCK!

Second Count (*Shoulder Piece*) Figure 10-29

1. Let go the piece with the left hand.
2. Turn the piece to the left with the right hand and place it against the hollow of the left shoulder, the barrel to the front.
3. Bring the left hand down hard on the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger before the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.
4. Regrasp the piece with the right hand, the:
 - a. First joint of the forefinger touching the back of the comb of the cock.
 - b. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointing upward.
 - c. Fingers extended, joined, and pressed against the small of the stock.
 - d. Back of the hand to the front.

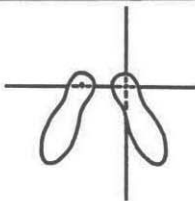
Third Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 10-30

1. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm toward the thigh.



a

b



a

b

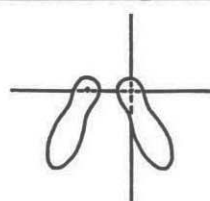


Fig. 10-29 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Second Count* from *Recover, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 10-30 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Third Count* from *Recover, Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Notes to Chapter 10

THE FIRINGS

1. *Regulations*, 1779, pp. 26-27.
2. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part III, p. 11.
3. *Regulations*, 1779, p. 28.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 6.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 29.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 17.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 64. "The first part of the general will be the signal to cease firing; on the beating of which the officers and non-commissioned officers must see that their platoons cease fire, load and shoulder quick as possible. The commanding officer will continue the signal till he sees that the men have loaded and shouldered."
8. *Ibid.*, p. 17.
9. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part III, p. 112. "At the word *Fire!* the men must pull their triggers briskly, that their pieces are sure to go off; the front rank must rise up nimbly, and all three ranks come at once to the priming position; the men in coming to it, half-cocking their firelocks briskly and proceeding to prime and load with the utmost dispatch."
10. *Regulations*, 1779, p. 32.
11. Lacroix, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of the French Infantry*, 1791, Boston: T.B. Wait and Co., 1810, p. 31.
12. U.S. War Department, *Regulations for the Field Exercise, Manoeuvres and Conduct of the Infantry of the United States*, Philadelphia: Fry and Kammerer, 1812, p. 18.
13. *Regulations*, 1779, p. 32: "The officer will often command, *As you were!* to accustom the soldier not to fire till he receives the word of command."
14. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, pp. 24-25.
15. This is the position of *Recover, Arms!* and is not to be confused with *Poise, Firelock!* where the lockplate is turned to the front and the piece is held before the center of the body. Where *Poise, Firelock!* is a position of the Manual Exercise of the *Regulations*, only, *Recover, Arms!* is used in the firings and on sentry duty.
16. The instruction for half-facing to the right is omitted from the *Regulations* and from the *Manual Exercise* of 1764 from which this motion was copied. The facing has been inserted to establish the position of the feet from which the half-face to the left is made in facing to the front in the final movement of returning the rammer. This position of the feet resulting from the half-face to the right, is described clearly in Pickering's, *Discipline*, Part I, pp. 16-17 and Figure 5 of Plate 1.
17. The *Regulations*, 1779, do not specify the location of the thumb on the face of the hammer and contemporary instructions are varied. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, places the thumb under the flint, while the French manual exercises of 1766 and 1791, as well as the U.S. manuals after 1815, specify that the thumb should be placed on the hammer above the flint to open the pan.
18. The American military manuals introducing the French *Regulations* of 1791 carry the admonition in remarks relating to the firing: "When the firing is performed with powder, the soldier will be desired to observe, in putting the lock at half-cock, whether the smoke comes out of the touch-hole, which is sure proof that the charge is gone off, if the smoke does not come out, the soldier, instead of loading again, shall fall back in the rear, pick the touch-hole and prime again." Cf. "System of Discipline and Manoeuvres of Infantry," Duane, *American Military Library*, Philadelphia: 1809, p. 34.

Chapter XI

INSPECTION OF ARMS

Inspection in the Regulations

The inspection of the firelock is necessary to determine its condition for service or safety. The *Regulations* treat both of these requirements in several instances:

When the company exercises with powder, the captain will inspect the company, and see that all cartridges not used are returned. [1]

When the troops are to exercise with powder, the officers must carefully inspect the arms and cartridge boxes, and take away all the cartridges with ball. [2]

Every day the commanding officers of companies must examine their men's arms and ammunition, and see that they are clean and in good order. [3]

An officer of a company must every morning at roll call inspect minutely into the state of the men's arms, accoutrements and ammunition. [4]

Once every month the commandant should make a general inspection into the state of the men, their arms, ammunition, accoutrements . . . [5]

He [the Adjutant] must attend the parade at the turning out of all guards or detachments, inspect their dress, arms, accoutrements and ammunition . . . [6]

When the company parades, and whilst the captain and lieutenant are examining the arms and accoutrements, the ensign must inspect the dress of the soldiers . . . [7]

He [the First Sergeant] must parade all guards and detachments furnished by his company, examine their arms, ammunition, accoutrements and dress, before he carries them to the parade. [8]

There are but two references to the manner in which such inspections may have been performed:

For a review of inspection the battalion must not be told off into platoons, but remain in companies, at open order . . . [9]

When the first company has been inspected, they order their firelocks, and the next company shoulders; the others proceed in the same manner till the whole are inspected. [10]

With no more information than the above and the fact that inspection was conducted with arms at the shoulder, other contemporary practices have to be examined to determine a likely inspection procedure that may have been used during the Revolution.

Evolution of Inspection Arms

The *Norfolk Discipline* states that the arms are to be inspected to see that they are "clean and unloaded, and the locks in good order." [11] but there are no instruction for the manual of inspection. The *Manual Exercise* of 1764 has the same omission. The *French drill* of 1755 gives a detailed manual for the inspection of the firelock, bayonet, sword, and cartridge box and includes the placing of the ramrod in the barrel to determine the condition of the chamber. [12] The *French manual* of 1766 [13] is similar but eliminates the inspection of the sword. Pickering's procedure for the inspection of arms in 1775 began from the position of *shoulder*:

This inspection, or examination, may be regularly made by the words of command — *Open your pans!* at which every man brings his right thumb above the hammer, and forefinger under it (but above the flint,) and instantly forces it up; then they throw their right hand down by their sides; performing this action in two motions. The pans being inspected, the Captain orders — *Shut your pans!* which the men perform as directed in the manual exercise. Then — *Search your Arms!* upon which every man brings his firelock to his left side in three motions, as if he were going to fix his bayonet; only instead of the bayonet, he seizes the butt end of the rammer; then instantly draws the rammer, and puts it into the barrel. The officers now passing along each rank (each officer inspecting a part to make dispatch) the men successively pull out their rammers part way, and let them drop against the breech pin; and if they be of steel, the sound instantly determines whether their pieces be clean or unloaded, or, otherwise. With wooden rammers the sound will be much less distinct; but that joined to an equality of length between the rammer and the barrel of the flintlock, may serve to ascertain the same point.

This examination being finished; the Captain will order — *Return your Rammers!* which the men do instantly; then — *Shoulder!* upon which they shoulder in three motions; as in explanation 2d of the manual exercise.

At the same time that the officers inspect the pans, they see whether the whole lock be in good order, and the flint, or pieces of wood (which the men ought to have at common exercises instead of flints, to prevent destruction of both flint and steel) are well screwed and fastened in the cock. Also when the rammer is returned, the officers, if they think fit, may order the men to fix and unfix bayonets, to see

that they are well fitted to their pieces, and are clean and bright. [14]

Proposed amendments in 1810 to the manual exercise of the *Regulations* of 1779 included a manual for the inspection of arms that accomplished the same acts prescribed by Pickering. From the position of shoulder, the commands were:

Open, Pans!
 Search, Arms!
 Shoulder, Arms!
 Return, Rammers!
 Shoulder, Arms!
 Shut, Pans! [15]

The 1813 discipline recommended for the militia of Massachusetts includes a brief description of battalion inspection, stating that the ranks will be formed with “arms shouldered; pans open.” [16] When the inspection was completed, the pans were to be shut. [17] Although the French regulations of 1791 [18] became the basis for the procedures of inspection adopted by the United States after the war of 1812 and contained no directions for the inspection of the lock, *Article 39* of the 1821 *Regulations for the Army of the United States* specified the *Form and Course of Inspection* for infantry arms and included instruction for opening the pan. The commands for a company at ease, upon the approach of the inspecting officer, were:

Attention!
 Spring, Ramrods!
 Shoulder, Arms!
 Open, Pans! [19]

Because of the similarity between inspection manuals used by Pickering in 1775, the proposed amendments of 1810, the Massachusetts militia in 1813, and those still remaining in 1821, the inspection manual of the firelock in this work is patterned directly after that of Pickering.

The Manual of Inspection

The inspection would be conducted at opened ranks at shouldered arms. The pans are opened and inspected. At this time the locks can be examined and the security and condition of the flints tested. The pans are closed after this inspection and the barrels are checked to determine if they are unloaded and clean. This is done by lowering the firelock to the left side, drawing the rammer, and inserting it in the barrel. As the inspector approaches, the rammer is lifted a few inches and dropped onto the face of the breech pin. If the chamber is empty, the rammer will rebound with a ring. If not, a length of rammer will protrude from the muzzle and indicate that the chamber is loaded. The American commands for this movement of drawing the rammer and putting it into the barrel varied over the years around the turn of the 18th century, as shown below:

<i>Manual</i>	<i>Command</i>
1775 (Pickering)	“Search your Arms!” [20]
1807 (Duane)	“Sound, Rammer!” [21]
1810 (Lacroix)	“Spring, Rammer!” [22]
1810 (Proposed Amendments)	“Search, Arms!” [23]
1815 (Scott)	“Spring, Ramrods!” [24]
1835 (Scott)	“Spring, Rammers!” [25]

Captain William North, aide-de-camp to von Steuben, described an inspection of a brigade at Valley Forge and reported that “every musket was handled and *searched* [italic: EWP]. [26] In agreement with Pickering’s command, the practice of the *Regulations* of dropping the word “your” in the commands, and the proposed amendments of 1810 the command for the use of the rammer in the inspection of arms in this work will be “Search, Arms!”

Upon completion of the inspection, the rammers are returned and the firelock shouldered. If the inspecting officer desires to examine the condition and fit of the bayonets, he can cause them to be fixed and unfixd according to the procedures of the Manual Exercise.

The following motions are described and illustrated:

1. *Open, Pans!*
 - First Count
 - Part 1 *Handle Hammer* Figure 11-1
 - Part 2 *Open Pan* Figure 11-2
 - Second Count *Drop Hand* Figure 11-3
- Shut, Pans!*
 - First Count
 - Part 1 *Handle Hammer* Figure 11-4
 - Part 2 *Shut Pan* Figure 11-5
 - Second Count *Drop Hand* Figure 11-6
3. *Search, Arms!*
 - First Count *Support Cock* Figure 11-7
 - Second Count *Grasp Swell* Figure 11-8
 - Third Count *Grasp Rammer* Figure 11-9
 - Fourth Count *Draw Rammer* Figure 11-10
 - Fifth Count *Release Rammer* Figure 11-11
 - Sixth Count *Sound Rammer* Figure 11-12
 - Seventh Count *Regrasp Rammer* Figure 11-13
4. *Return, Rammer!*
 - First Count *Seat Rammer* Figure 11-14
 - Second Count *Raise Piece* Figure 11-15
5. *Shoulder, Firelock!*
 - First Count *Grasp Butt* Figure 11-16
 - Second Count *Drop Right Hand* Figure 11-17

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Inspect Locks:

Open — PANS! (Two Counts)

First Count, Part 1 (*Handle Hammer*) Figure 11-1

1. Raise the right hand to the hammer. (Figure 11-1c)
2. Sieze the top of the hammer between the thumb and forefinger, the:
 - a. Back of the hand up.
 - b. Thumb over the back of the hammer.
 - c. Forefinger bent under the face of the hammer and above the flint.

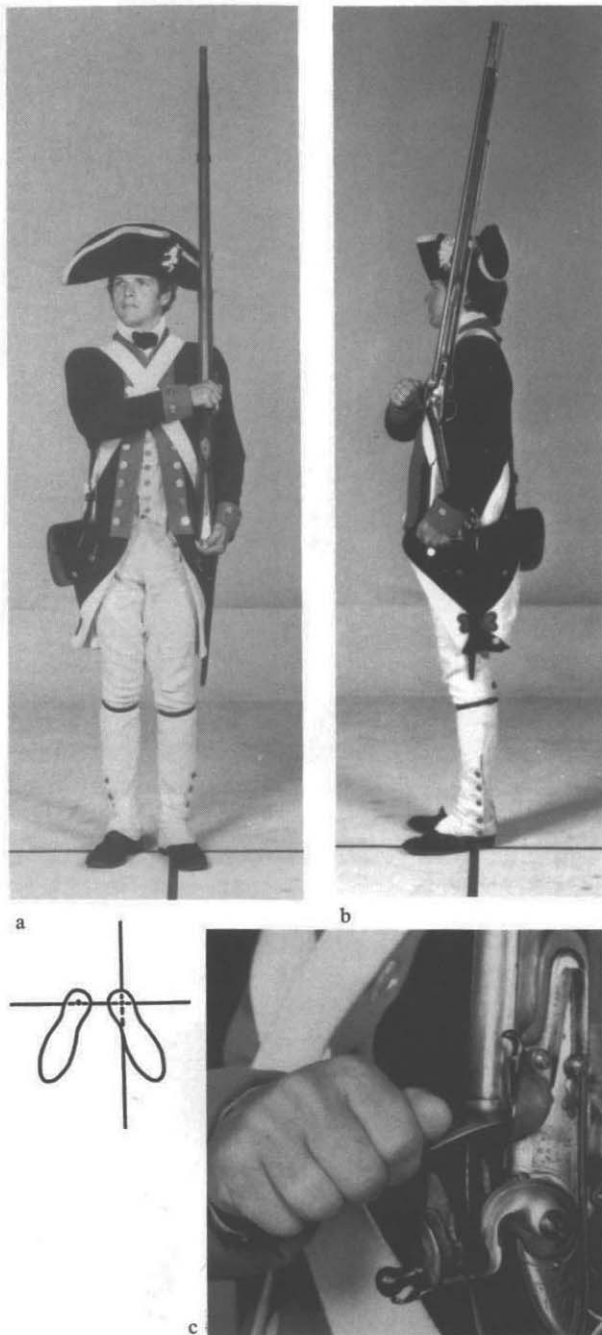


Fig. 11-1 Position of *Open, Pans, First Count, Part 1* from *Shoulder Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the right thumb and forefinger on the hammer viewed at (c) from the left flank.

First Count, Part 2 (*Open Pan*) Figure 11-2

1. Force the hammer up instantly with the right hand. (Figure 11-2c)

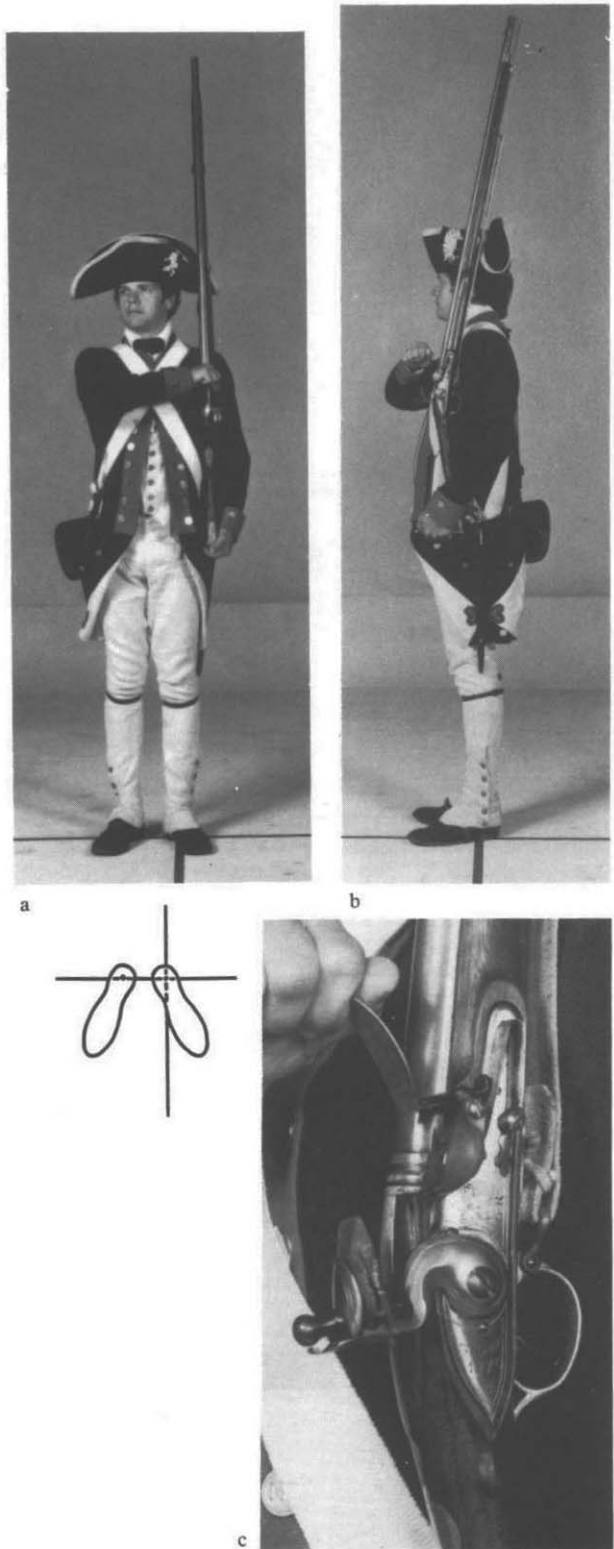
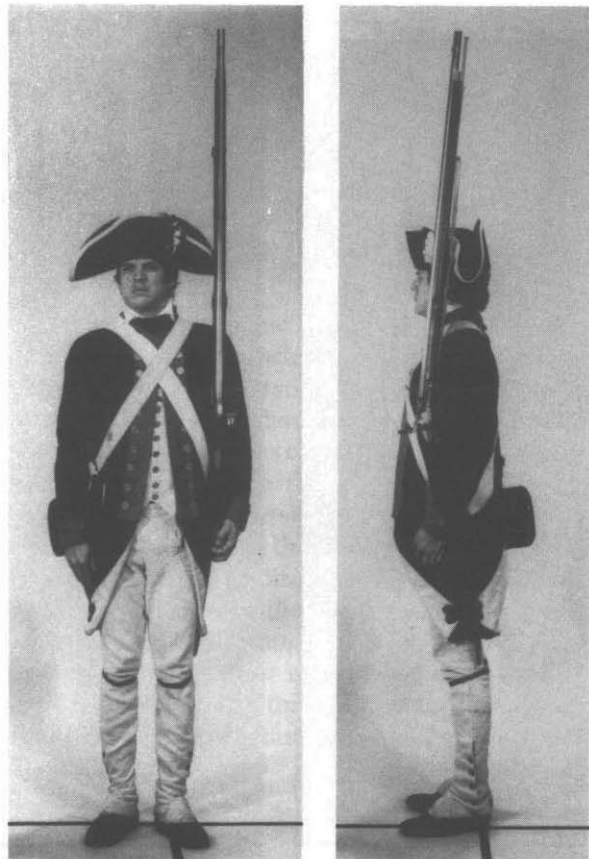


Fig. 11-2 Position of *Open, Pans, First Count, Part 2* from *Shoulder Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the right hand opening the pan viewed at (c) from the left flank.

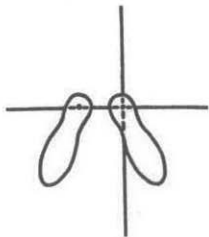
Second Count (*Drop Hand*) Figure 11-3

1. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm toward the thigh.



a

b



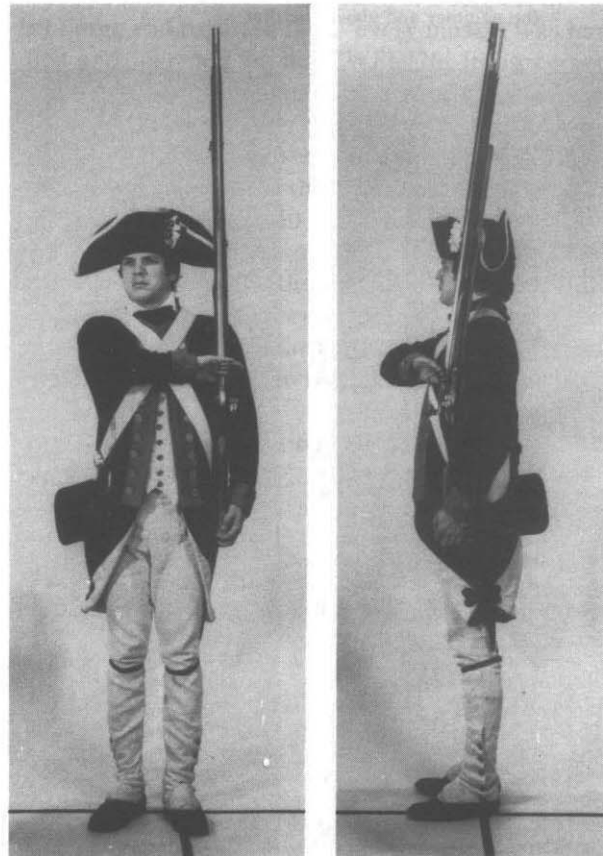
BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Shut Pan:

Shut — PANS! (Two Counts)

First Count, Part 1 (*Handle Hammer*) Figure 11-4

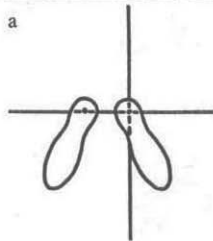
1. Bring up the right hand just above the back of the hammer (Figure 11-4c), the:

- a. Back of the hand up.
- b. Fingers extended and joined.
- c. Forefinger touching the barrel.



a

b



c

Fig. 11-3 Position of *Open Pans, Second Count* from *Shoulder Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 11-4 Position of *Shut Pans, First Count, Part 1* from *Shoulder Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the fingers of the right hand behind the hammer viewed at (c) from the front.

First Count, Part 2 (*Shut Pan*) Figure 11-5

1. Force the hammer down smartly with the first two fingers of the right hand. (Figure 11-5c)

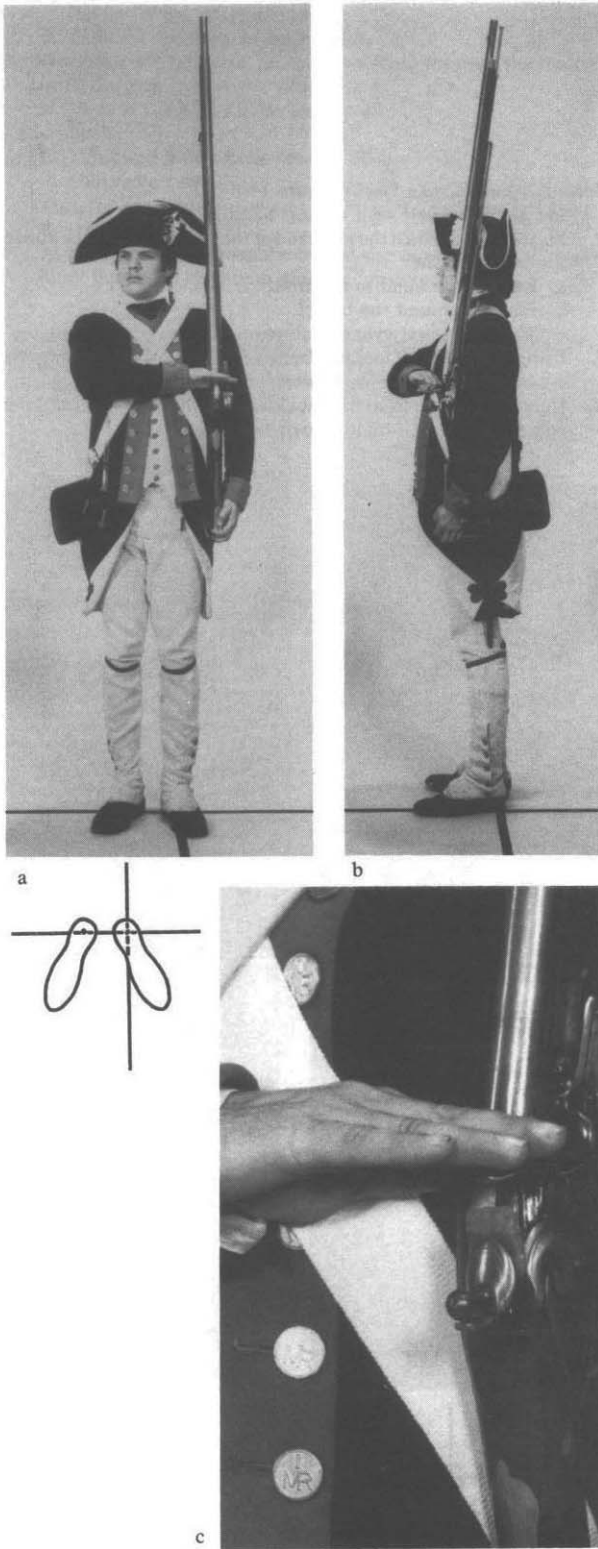


Fig. 11-5 Position of *Shut, Pans, First Count, Part 2* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank. Position of the right hand closing the pan viewed at (c) from the front.

Second Count (*Drop Hand*) Figure 11-6

1. Drop the right hand to the side, the palm toward the thigh.

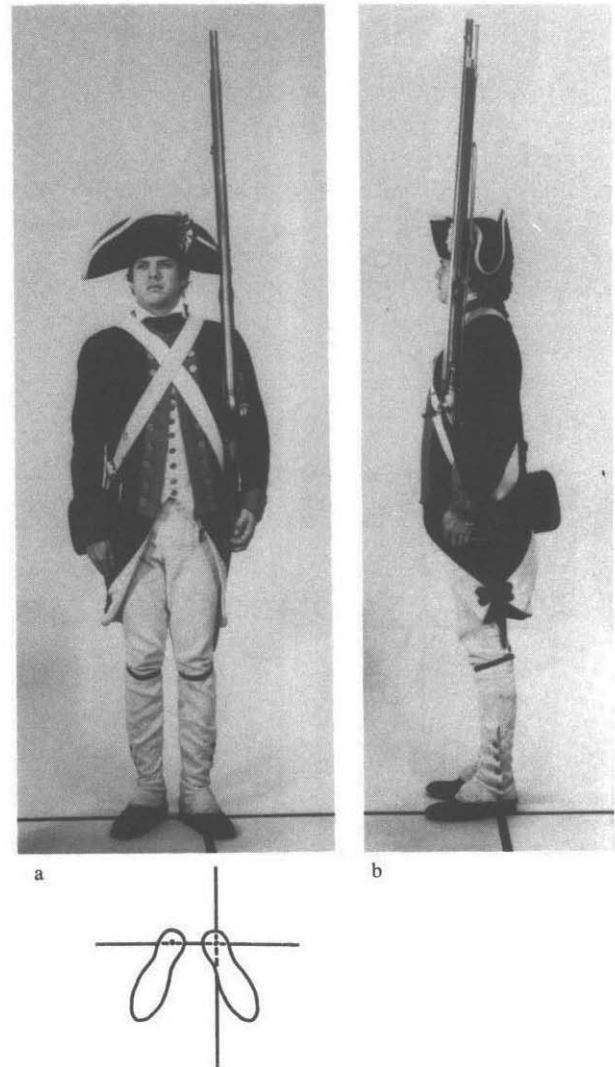
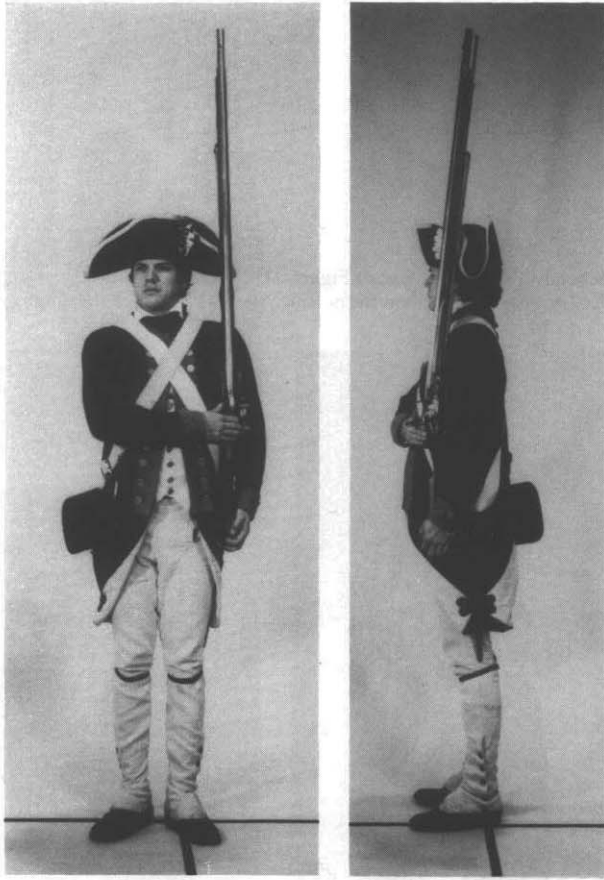


Fig. 11-6 Position of *Shut, Pans, Second Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

BEING AT SHOULDERED FIRELOCK, To Search the Chamber:
Search — *ARMS!* (Seven Counts)

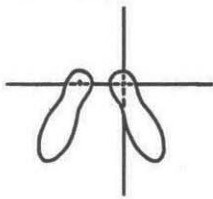
First Count (*Support Cock*) Figure 11-7

1. Bring the right hand up smartly and place it under the cock, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. First joint of the forefinger touching the comb of the cock.
 - c. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail, pointing upwards.



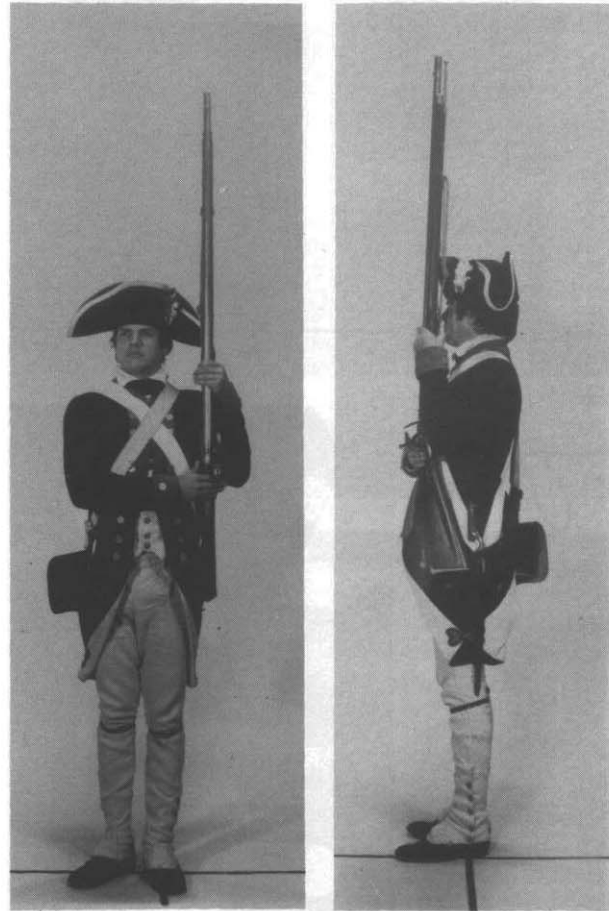
a

b



Second Count (*Grasp Swell*) Figure 11-8

1. Let go of the butt with the left hand.
2. Seize the piece with the left hand at the swell of the stock above the tail pipe, the:
 - a. Back of the hand to the front.
 - b. Fingers around the barrel.
 - c. Thumb up and over the sling.
3. Bring down the left forearm from wrist to elbow close along the outside of the stock from swell to the lock.
4. Detach the piece from the shoulder with the left hand until the barrel is vertical without moving the butt.



a

b

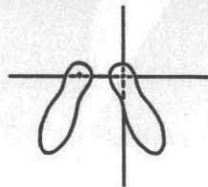
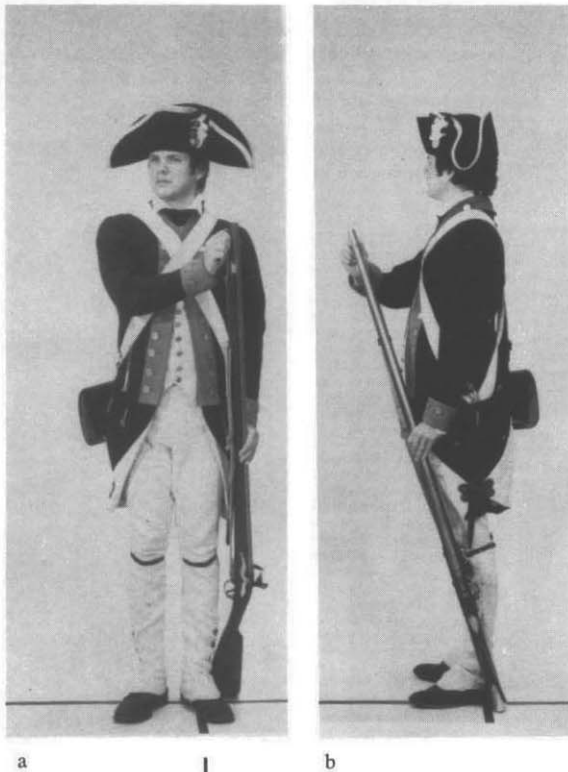


Fig. 11-7 Position of *Search, Arms, First Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 11-8 Position of *Search, Arms, Second Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

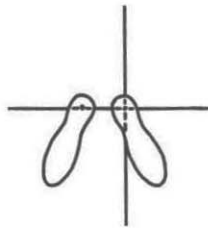
Third Count (*Grasp Rammer*) Figure 11-9

1. Let go the piece with the right hand.
2. Lower the piece down the left side with the left hand, the:
 - a. Barrel to the front.
 - b. Muzzle about five inches before the hollow of the left shoulder.
 - c. Left arm hanging straight down.
3. Open the left hand and let the piece slide through the fingers until the butt strikes the ground, the:
 - a. Heel of the butt as far back as the heels. [27]
 - b. Left hand holding the piece a little above the swell.
4. Turn the piece about the axis of the barrel with the left hand, the rammer to the right.
5. At the same time, grasp the butt of the rammer with the right hand between the thumb and the forefinger.



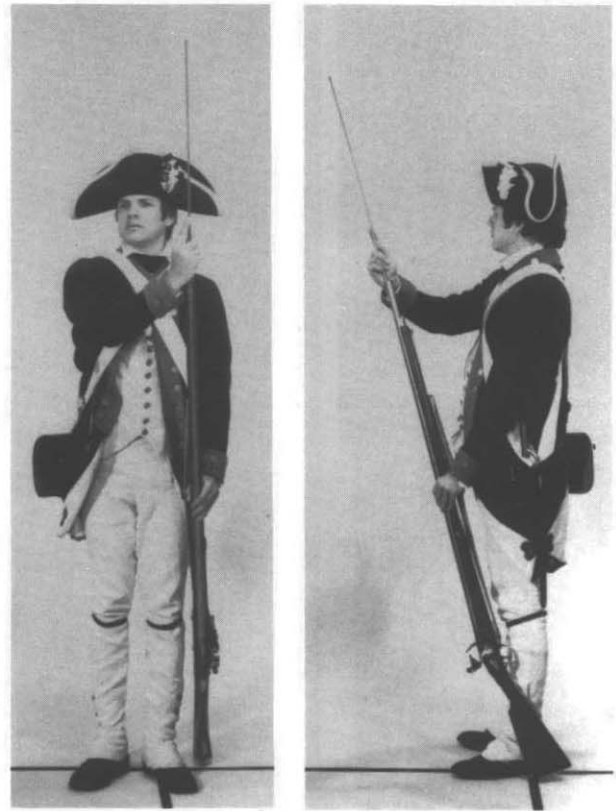
a

b



Fourth Count (*Draw Rammer*) Figure 11-10

1. Extend the right arm smartly withdrawing the rammer half-out of the pipes. (See Figure 8-23)
2. Release the rammer and catch it at the muzzle with the right hand between the thumb and the forefinger, the palm of the hand to the front. (See Figure 8-24c)
3. Extend the right arm again, clear the point of the rammer from the pipes, and turn the rammer, the butt held just above the muzzle. (See Figure 8-25)
4. Enter the rammer into the muzzle as far as the right hand.
5. Turn the piece about the axis of the barrel with the left hand, the barrel to the front.



a

b

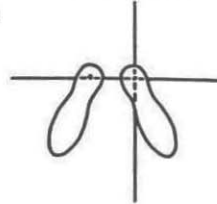
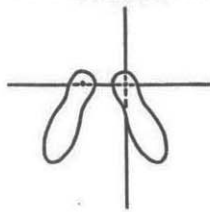
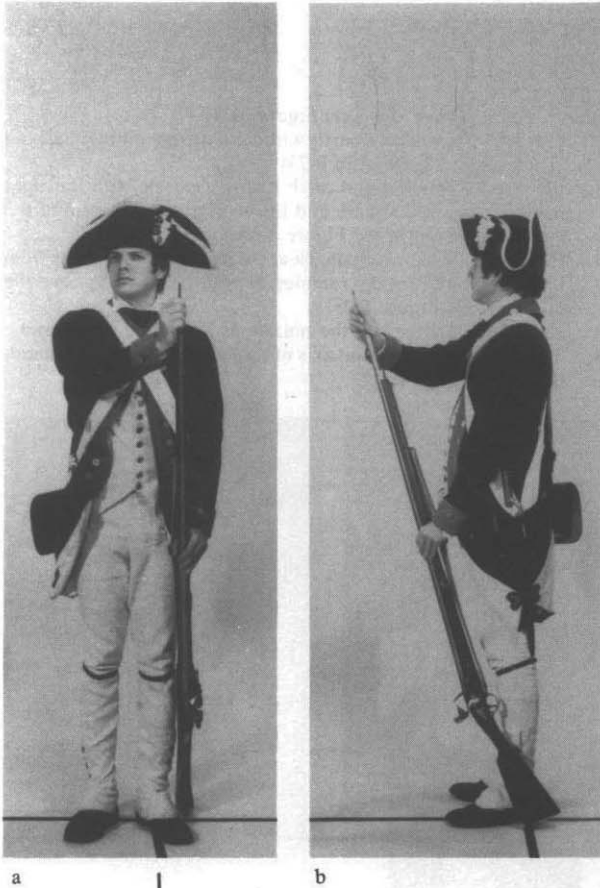


Fig. 11-9 Position of Search Arms, Third Count from Shoulder, Firelock viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 11-10 Position of Search Arms, Fourth Count from Shoulder, Firelock Viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fifth Count (*Release Rammer*) Figure 11-11

1. Release the rammer and allow the butt to come to rest on face of the breech pin.
2. Regrasp the point of the rammer between the thumb and the forefinger, (See Figure 8-30c) the:
 - a. Thumb pointed up along the rammer.
 - b. Forefinger bent.
 - c. Last three fingers closed.
3. Remain in this position until the inspecting officer approaches.



Sixth Count (*Sound Rammer*) Figure 11-12

1. When the inspecting officer completes the inspection of the adjacent file:
 - a. Draw the rammer out of the barrel a few inches.
 - b. Release the rammer and drop it against the face of the breech pin.

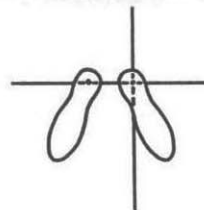
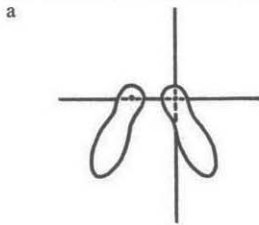
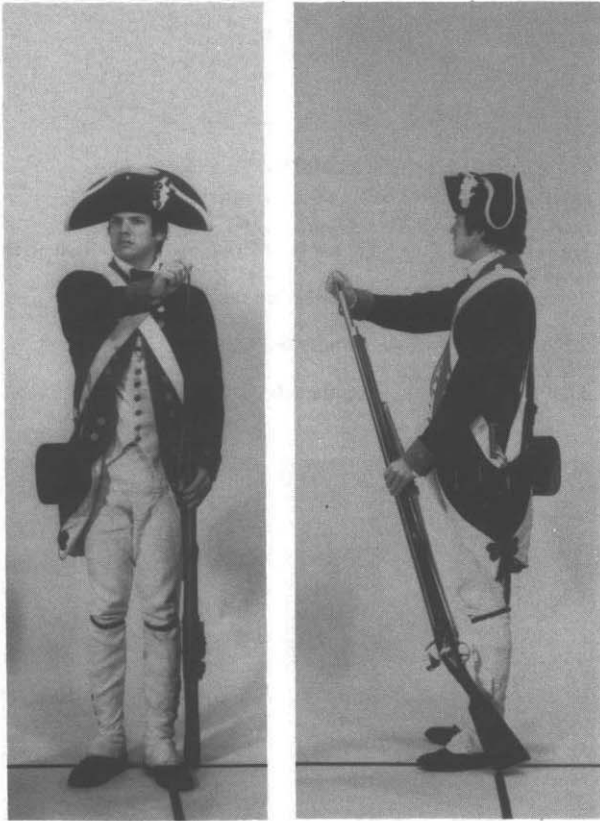


Fig. 11-11 Position of *Search, Arms, Fifth Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 11-12 Position of *Search, Arms, Sixth Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Seventh Count (*Regrasp Rammer*) Figure 11-13

1. Regrasp the point of the rammer between the thumb and the forefinger as it rebounds from the breech pin.
2. Remain in this position until the inspecting officer has passed.



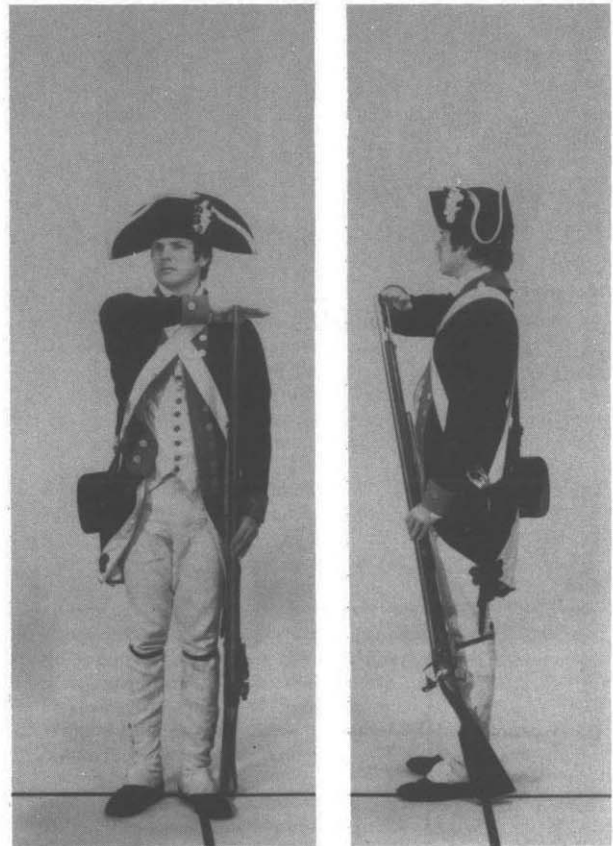
b

BEING AT SEARCHED ARMS, To Return Rammers:

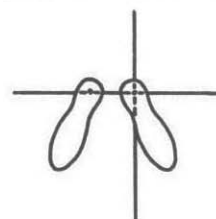
Return — RAMMERS! (Two Counts)

First Count (*Seat Rammer*) Figure 11-14

1. Extend the right arm and draw the rammer half-out of the barrel. (See Figure 8-31)
2. Release the rammer and catch it with the right hand at the muzzle between the hollow of the thumb and the forefinger, palm to the front. (See Figure 8-32)
3. Extend the right arm again, clear the butt of the rammer from the muzzle, and turn the rammer, the point held over the opening of the upper pipe. (See Figure 8-34)
4. Insert the rammer into the pipes as far as the right hand. (See Figure 8-35)
5. Place the edge of the palm of the right hand on the butt of the rammer and thrust the rammer to the bottom of the channel.



a



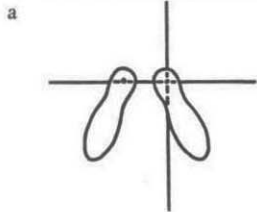
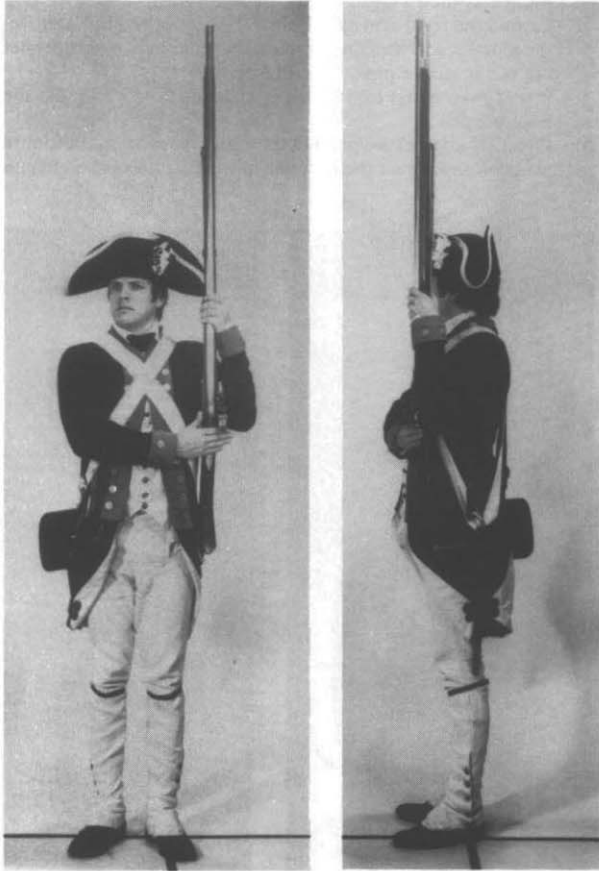
b

Fig. 11-13 Position of *Search Arms, Seventh Count* from *Shoulder, Firelock* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 11-14 Position of *Return, Rammers, First Count* from *Search Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Raise Piece*) Figure 11-15

1. Raise the piece with the left hand before the left shoulder, the:
 - a. Left hand at the height of the chin.
 - b. Left forearm against the piece.
 - c. Barrel to the front.
2. Open the left hand and regrasp the stock immediately at the swell, the:
 - a. Thumb pointed upward.
 - b. Fingers around the barrel.
 - c. Knuckles to the front.
3. At the same time, place the right hand under the cock, the:
 - a. First joint of the forefinger under the comb of the cock.
 - b. Thumb on the head of the lower side nail.
 - c. Fingers extended and joined.

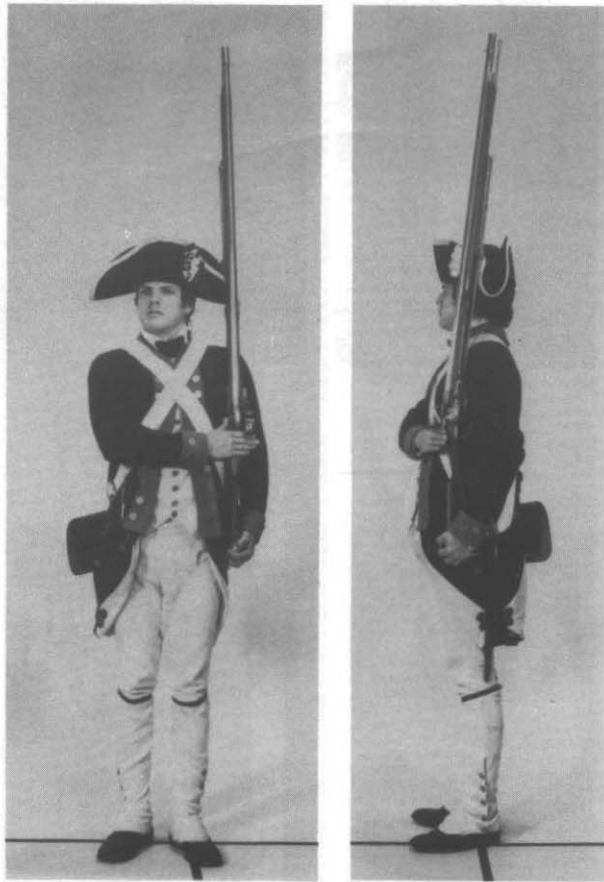


b

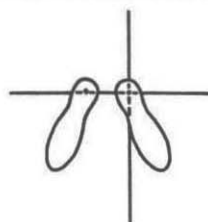
BEING AT RETURNED RAMMER, To Shoulder Firelock:
Shoulder — FIRELOCK! (Two Counts)

First Count (*Grasp Butt*) Figure 11-16

1. Quit the piece with the left hand bringing it down hard on the butt, the:
 - a. Thumb and forefinger before the heel of the butt plate.
 - b. Last three fingers under the butt plate.
 - c. Left elbow back.
2. Press the piece against the left shoulder with the right hand.



a



b

Fig. 11-15 Position of *Return, Rammers, Second Count* from *Search Arms* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Fig. 11-16 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, First Count* from *Return, Rammers* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Second Count (*Drop Right Hand*) Figure 11-17

1. Drop the right hand quickly to the side, the palm toward the thigh.

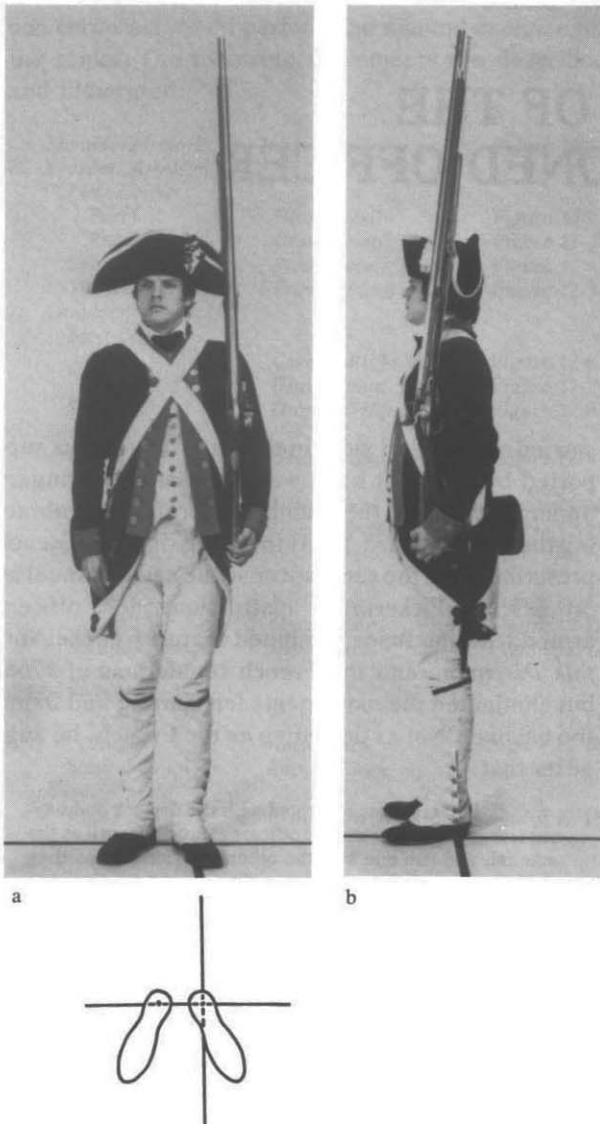


Fig. 11-17 Position of *Shoulder, Firelock, Second Count* from *Return, Rammers* viewed from (a) the front and (b) the left flank.

Notes to Chapter 11
INSPECTION OF ARMS

1. Regulations, 1779, p. 32-33.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 64.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 89.
4. *Ibid.*, pp. 117-118.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 130.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 135.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 143.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 146.
9. *Ibid.*, p. 126.
10. *Ibid.*, p. 127.
11. Windham, *Norfolk Discipline*, 1759, Part II, p. 45.
12. *Ordonnance du Roy*, 1755. "Commandemens pour l'Inspection," pp. 2:7.
13. *Ordonnance du Roi*, 1766. "Commandemens pour l'Inspection," pp. 55-60.
14. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, pp. 77-78 (fn.)
15. U.S. Senate, *A Compendium for Garrison and Field Ordnance, as Practiced in the United States*, Washington City: R.C. Weightman, 1810. The manual for inspection arms is found on pp. 36-37 of the "Proposed Amendments and Additions to the Regulations of the Troops of the United States, Ordained by the Continental Congress, March 29th, 1779" bound with other miscellaneous documents and in the possession of the House Library of the U.S. House of Representatives.
16. Brigadier General Isaac Maltby, *The Elements of War*, 2nd ed., Boston: T.B. Wait and Co., 1813, p. 139.
17. *Ibid.*
18. Lacroix, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise, and Manoeuvres of the French Infantry*, 1791. Boston: T.B. Wait and Co., 1810, pp. 33-35.
19. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Adjutant General's Office, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of Infantry*. Philadelphia: 1824, p. 315.
20. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, *loc. cit.*
21. Willaim Duane, *The System of Discipline and Manoeuvres of Infantry*, Philadelphia: Wm. Duane, 1807, p. 25.
22. Lacroix, *loc. cit.*
23. U.S. Senate, *A Compendium for Garrison and Field Ordnance*, 1810. "Proposed Amendments," p. 36.
24. U.S. War Department, *Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manoeuvres of Infantry*, New York: T. & W. Marcein, 1815, p. 5.
25. Major General [Winfield] Scott, *Infantry Tactics* (1835), New York: Harper and Brothers, 1861, Vol. 1, p. 62.
26. John M. Palmer, *General von Steuben*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1937, p. 210.
27. Pickering, *Discipline*, 1775, Part I, p. 77. Pickering's instructions are to place the butt "as if he were going to fix his bayonet," which is prescribed as "as far back as the heels," *Ibid.*, p. 14. Resting the butt on the ground is a convenience as the position has to be maintained until the inspecting officer arrives.