

T H E
MANUAL EXERCISE
AS ORDERED BY HIS
MAJESTY
I N
1 7 6 4.
TOGETHER WITH
PLANS and EXPLANATIONS
Of the Method generally practis'd
A T
REVIEWS and FIELD-DAYS.



BOSTON, NEW-ENGLAND:
Printed by T. and J. FLEET, at the Heart and Crown in Cornhill.

PV 668



In Provincial Congress at Cambridge, October 29, 1774.

RESOLVED, that it be recommended to the Inhabitants of this Province, that in Order to their perfecting themselves in the Military Art, they proceed in the Method ordered by His Majesty in the Year 1764; it being in the Opinion of this Congress, the best calculated for Appearance and Defence.

A true Extract from the Minutes,

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, Sec'y.



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T H E

Manual Exercise

A S O R D E R E D

By His M A J E S T Y

in 1764.

Explanations.

Words of
Command.

N. of M. of

1 *Point your
Firelocks!*

1st. **S**EIZE the Firelock with your Right-Hand and turn the Lock outwards, keeping the Firelock perpendicular.

2d. Bring up the Firelock with a quick Motion from the Shoulder, and seize it with the Left-Hand just above the Lock, so that the little Finger may rest upon the Spring, and the Thumb lie upon the Stock: The Firelock must not be held too far from the Body, and the Left-Hand must be of an equal Height with the Eyes.

2 *Cock your
Firelocks!*

1st. Turn the Barrel opposite to your Face, and place your Thumb upon the Cock, raising the Elbow square at this Motion.

2d. Cock your Firelock, by drawing your Elbow down, placing your Thumb upon the Breech-Pin, and the Fingers under the Guard.

3 *Present!*

1 Step back about six Inches to the Rear with the Right Foot, bringing the Left Toe to the Front; at the same Time the Butt-End of the Firelock must be brought to an equal Height with your Shoulder, placing the Left-Hand on the Swell, and the Fore-Finger of the Right-Hand before the Trigger, sinking the Muzzle a little.

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Pull

29, 1774.

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Words of Command.	No. of Motions.	Explanations.
4 Fire!	1	Pull the Tricker briskly, and immediately after bringing up the Right-Foot, come to the Priming Position, with the Lock opposite to the Right Breat, the Muzzle the Height of the Hat. keeping it firm and steady, and at the same Time seize the Cock with the Fore-Finger and Thumb of the Right-Hand, the Back of the Hand turn'd up,
5 Half-Cock your Firelocks!	1	Half-bend the Cock briskly with a Draw-back of the Right Elbow, bringing it close to the Butt of the Firelock.
6 Handle your Cartridge!	1	Bring your Right-Hand with a short Round to your Pouch, slapping it hard; seize the Cartridge, and bring it with a quick Motion to your Mouth, bite the Top well off and bring the Hand as low as the Chin, with the Elbow down.
7 Prime!	1	Shake the Powder into the Pan, placing the three last Fingers behind the Hammer, with the Elbow up.
8 Shut your Pans!	2	1st. Shut your Pan briskly, Drawing your Right-Arm at this Motion towards your Body, holding the Cartridge fast in your Hand, as in the former Position. 2d. Turn the Piece nimbly round to the Loading Position, with the Lock to the Front and the Muzzle the Height of the Chin, bringing the Right Hand behind the Muzzle; both Feet kept fast in this Motion.
9 Charge with Cartridge!	2	1st. Turn up your Hand and put the Cartridge into the Muzzle, shaking the Powder into the Barrel 2d. Place your Hand, closed, with a quick and strong Motion, upon the Rammer.

1st. Draw

Words of Command.

No. of Motions.

Explanations.

10	<i>Draw your Rammers!</i>	2	<p>1st. Draw the Rammer with a quick Motion, half out, seizing it at the Muzzle back-handed.</p> <p>2d. Draw it quite out, turn it, and enter it into the Muzzle.</p>
11	<i>Ram down your Cartridge!</i>	1	<p>Ram the Cartridge well down the Barrel, instantly recovering and seizing the Rammer back-handed at the Center, turning it and entering it as far as the lower Pipe, placing at the same Time the Edge of the Hand on the Butt-End of the Rammer, with Fingers extended.</p>
12	<i>Return your Rammers!</i>		<p>Return the Rammer, bringing up the Piece with the Left Hand to the Shoulder, seizing it with the Right Hand under the Cock, keeping the Left-Hand tall at the Swell, turning the Body square to the Front.</p>
13	<i>Shoulder your Firelocks!</i>	2	<p>1st. Quit the Left-Hand and place it strong upon the Butt.</p> <p>2d. Quit the Right-Hand and throw it down the Right Side.</p>
14	<i>Rest your Firelocks!</i>	3	<p>1st. Seize the Firelock with the Right-Hand, turning the Lock outwards.</p> <p>2d. Raise the Firelock from your Shoulder and place your Left-Hand with a quick Motion above the Lock, holding the Piece right up and down in both Hands before you and your Left-Hand even with your Eyes.</p> <p>3d. Step briskly back with your Right Foot, placing it a Hand's-breadth distant from your Left Heel, at the same Time bring down the Firelock, as quick as possible to your Rest, sinking it as far down before your Left Knee as your Right-Hand will permit without Constraint; your Left-Hand at the Feather Spring, and your Right with Fingers extended held under the Guard, taking care to draw in the Muzzle well towards your Body, and to dress in a Line with the Butt-End.</p> <p>1st. Place</p>

Words of Command.

Order your Firelocks!

Ground your Firelocks!

No. of Men.

3

4

Explanations.

1st. Place your Firelock nimbly with your Left-Hand against your Right Shoulder.

2d. Quit the Firelock with the Right-Hand, and sinking it at the same Time with your Left, seize it at the Muzzle, which must be of an equal Height with your Chin, and hold it close against your Right Side.

3d. Lift up your Right Foot and place it by your Left; at the same Time throw back your Left Hand by your Left Side, and with your Right bring down the Butt End strong upon the Ground, placing it even with the Toe of your Right Foot; the Thumb of your Right Hand lying along the Barrel, and the Muzzie kept at a little Distance from your Body.

1st. Face to the Right upon your Heels, and at the same Time turn the Firelock so that the Lock may point to the Rear, and the Flat of the Butt-End lie against the Inside of your Foot, at the same Time slipping the Right Foot behind the Butt of the Firelock, the Right Toe pointing to the Right and the Left to the Front.

2d. Step directly forward with your Left Foot, about as far as the Swell of the Firelock, and lay it upon the Ground, your Left Hand hanging down by your Left Foot, and your Right kept fast with the Butt-End against it.

3d. Raise yourself up again nimbly, bringing back your Left Foot to it's former Position, keeping your Body faced to the Right.

4th. Face again to the Left upon your Heels, and come to your proper Front, letting your Hands hang down without Motion.

1st. Face

Words of Command.

No. of Motions.

Explanations.

17 Take up your Firelocks!

- 1st. Face to the Right upon both Heels.
- 2d. Sink your Body down and come to the Position described in the second Motion of Grounding.
- 3d. Raise yourself and Firelock, bringing it close to your Right Side.
- 4th. Come to your proper Front, seizing the Firelock at the Muzzle, as in Explanation Fifteen.

18 Rest your Firelocks!

- 1st. Slip your Right Hand down the Parrel as far as the Swell.
- 2d. Raise the Firelock high up in a perpendicular Line from the Ground with your Right Hand, and seize it with the Left above the Spring, the Cock the Height of the Waist-Belt.
- 3d. Step back with your Right Foot, placing it behind your Left Heel, and come to the Rest.

19 Shoulder your Firelocks!

- 1st. Lift up your Right Foot and place it by your Left; bring the Firelock at the same Time to your Left Shoulder, and seize the Butt-End with the Left Hand, keeping it in the same Position as above described.
- 2d. Throw your Right Hand briskly back.

20 Secure your Firelocks!

- 1st. Bring the Right Hand briskly up, and place it under the Cock, keeping the Firelock steady in the same Position.
- 2d. Quit the Butt with the Left Hand, and seize the Firelocks with it at the Swell, bringing the Elbow close down upon the Lock: The Right Hand kept fast in this Motion, and the Piece still upright.
- 3d. Quit the Right Hand and bring it down your Right Side, bringing the Firelock nimbly down to the Secure; the Left Hand in a Line with the Waist-Belt.

1st. Bring

<i>Words of Command.</i>	<i>Nr. of Motions.</i>	<i>Explanations.</i>
21 <i>Shoulder your Firelocks!</i>	3	<p>1st. Bring the Firelock up to a perpendicular Line, seizing it with the Right-Hand under the Cock.</p> <p>2d. Quit the Left Hand and place it strong upon the Butt.</p> <p>3d. Quit the Right Hand and bring it smartly down the Right Side.</p>
22 <i>Fix your Bayonets!</i>	3	<p>1st and 2d Motions, as in the two first of the Secure.</p> <p>3d. Quit the Right Hand, and bring the Firelock smartly down to the Left Side with the Left Hand, as far as it will admit without Constraint, seizing the Bayonet at the same Time with the Right Hand, and fixing it, placing that Hand just below the Brads, with the Piece kept close to the Hollow of the Shoulder.</p>
23 <i>Shoulder your Firelocks!</i>	3	<p>1st. Quit the Right Hand and bring up the Firelock with the Left, seize it again under the Cock with your Right, as in the second Motion of the Secure.</p> <p>2d. Quit the Left Hand, and place it strong upon the Butt.</p> <p>3d. Quit the Right Hand, and bring it down the Right Side.</p>
24 <i>Present your Arms!</i>	3	<p>As explained in the 3 Motions of the Fourteenth Word of Command.</p>
25 <i>To be Right Face!</i>	3	<p>1st. Bring up the Firelock, with a quick Motion, high before you, till your Left Hand comes even with your Eyes, with the Fingers of that Hand extended along the Stock, just above the Feather-Spring. The Right Foot to be brought close up to the Left Heel in this Motion.</p> <p>2d. Face to the Right, taking care in Facing to hold the Firelock right up & down, and steady in your Hands.</p> <p>3d. Step back with your Right Foot and come down to your Present.</p>

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Words of Command.	No. of Actions.
26 To the Right Face!	3
27 To the Right about, Face!	3
28 To the Left, Face!	3
29 To the Left, Face!	3
30 To the Left about, Face!	2
31 Shoulder your Firelocks!	2
32 Charge your Bayonets!	2
33 Shoulder your Firelocks!	2

Explanations.

As in the foregoing Explanation.

As in the foregoing Explanation, coming to the Right-about, instead of to the Right.

1st. Bring the Right Foot briskly to the Hollow of your Left, with the Firelock in the same Position as in the first Motion of facing to the Right.
2d. Face to the Left.
3d. Come down to your Present.

As before.

As before, coming to the Left-about, instead of to the Left.

As in the two Motions of Explanation Nineteen.

1st. As in Explanation One.
2d. Bring the Swell of the Firelock down strong upon the Palm of the Hand, turning upon both Heels to the Right, the Right Hand grasping the Piece at the Small behind the Lock, and as high as the Waist-Belt : The Firelock upon a Level, with the Barrel upwards.

1st. Bring up the Firelock to the Shoulder, place the Left Hand upon the Butt, bringing the Feet square to the Front.
2d. Quit the Right Hand, and throw it down the Right Side.

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Words of Command.	No. of Motions.	Explanations.
34. <i>Advance your Arms!</i>	4	<p>1st and 2d. as in Explanation One.</p> <p>3d. Bring the Firelock down the Right Side, with the Right-Hand, as low as it will admit without Constraint, slipping up the Left-Hand at the same Time to the Swell, the Guard between the Thumb and Fore-Finger of the Right-Hand, the three last Fingers under the Cock, with the Barrel to the Rear.</p> <p>4th. Quit the Left-Hand.</p>
35. <i>Shoulder your Firelocks!</i>	4	<p>1st. Bring up the Left-Hand and seize it at the Swell.</p> <p>2d. Come smartly up to a Poise.</p> <p>3d and 4th. Shoulder.</p>

Position of a Soldier under Arms.

TO stand straight and firm upon his Legs; Head turned to the Right; Heels close; Toes a little turned out; Belly drawn in a little, but without Constraint; the Breast a little projected; Shoulders square to the Front, and kept back; the Right-Hand hanging strait down the Side, with the Palm close to the Thigh; the Left Elbow not to be turned out from the Body; the Firelock to be carried on the Left Shoulder, as low down as can be admitted without Constraint; the three last Fingers under the Butt; the Fore-Finger and Thumb before the Swell; the Flat of the Butt to be supported against the Hip-Bone, and to be pressed so that the Firelock may be felt against the Left Side, and that it may stand before the Hollow of the Shoulder, not leaning towards the Head nor from it; the Barrel almost perpendicular.—To be very exact in counting a Second of Time, or *One, Two*, between each Motion.

Explanation

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Prime & Load

Recover; at Right Hand a-cross the B quick Motion the little Fing at an equal not pressed, 2d. Bring the Left Ha Right Hand and the Elbo 3d. Open the Right A the Left Ha 4th. Hand 5th. Prim 6th. Shut 7th. Cast 8th and 9 10th and 11th. Rar 12th. Re 13th. Re 14th and

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Explanation of Priming and Loading.

No. of Motions.

Prime & Load 15. **C**OME smartly to the Recover, by springing the Firelock strait up with the Left Hand, turning the Barrel inwards, to the proper Height of the Recover; at the same Time that the Left-Hand springs the Firelock, the Right Hand is raised briskly from the Right Side, and seizes the Firelock a-cross the Breast, as it rises below the Cock, the Left Hand comes with a quick Motion from the Butt, and seizes the Firelock strong above the Lock, the little Finger of the Left Hand at the Spring of the Lock, the Left Hand at an equal Height with the Eyes, the Butt close to the Left Breast, but not pressed, the Firelock perpendicular opposite the Left Side of the Face.

2d. Bring the Firelock down with a brisk Motion to the Priming Position, the Left Hand holding the Firelock, as in priming; the Thumb of the Right Hand placed against the Face of the Steel, the Fingers clenched, and the Elbow a little turned out, that the Wrist may be clear of the Cock.

3d. Open the Pan, by throwing up the Steel with a strong Motion of the Right Arm, turning the Elbow in, and keeping the Firelock steady in the Left Hand.

- 4th. Handle the Cartridge!
- 5th. Prime!
- 6th. Shut Pans!
- 7th. Cast about!
- 8th and 9th. Load!
- 10th and 11th. Draw Rammers!
- 12th. Ram down the Cartridge!
- 13th. Return the Rammers!
- 14th and 15th. Shoulder!

N.B. The Motions of Recover and coming down to the Priming Position, and opening Pans, to be done in the usual Time.

The Motions of handling Cartridge, to shutting the Pans, to be done as quick as possible; when the Pans are shut, a small Pause is to be made, and cast about together; then the Loading Motions are to be done as quick as possible; but before the Rammer is return'd, another small Pause is to be made, counting One, Two, between each Motion, till the Firelock is Shouldered.

Explanations of the Position of each Rank in the Firings.

Words of Command

Front Rank.

Make ready!

SPRING the Firelock briskly to the Recover, keeping the Left Foot fast in this Motion; as soon as the Firelock is at the Recover, without any Stop sink the Body briskly without stooping forward, with a quick Motion down upon the Right Knee, the Butt-End of the Firelock at the same Time falls upon the Ground; the front Part of the Butt to be in a Line with the Heel of the Left Foot; as soon as the Butt comes to the Ground, the Firelock is to be cock'd, immediately seizing the Cock and Steel in the Right-Hand, the Firelock to be held firm in the Left Hand, about the Middle of that Part of the Firelock between the Lock and the Swell of the Stock; the Point of the Left Thumb to be close to the Swell pointing upwards.

As the Body is sinking, the Right Knee is to be thrown so far back as the Left Leg may be right up and down, the Right Foot to be thrown a little to the Right, the Body to be kept straight, the Head up, looking to the Right along the Rank, the same as if Shouldered; the Firelock to be upright, and Butt about four Inches to the Right of the Inside of the Left Foot.

Present!

Bring the Firelock briskly down to the Present, by extending the Left Arm to the full Length, with a strong Motion; at the same Time spring up the Butt by the Cock with the Right Hand, and raise up the Butt so high upon the Right Shoulder, that you may not be obliged to stoop too much with the Head, the Right Cheek to be close to the Butt, and the left Eye shut, and look along the Barrel, with the Right Eye from the Breech Pin to the Muzzle; keep the Left Elbow down in an easy Position, and stand as steady as possible; the Thumb of the Right Hand to remain in the Position as described in the third Explanation of the Manual.

Pull

Words of Command

Fire

Make ready!

Fire Firings.

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Pull

Words of Command

Fire!

Make ready!

No. of Motions.

Explanations.

Pull the Tricker as directed in the Manual, and as soon as the Piece is fired, give yourself a strong Spring upon your Left Leg, raising your Body briskly and straight up, keeping your Left Foot tall, and bringing the Right Heel close to the Left; at the same Time the Firelock is to be brought up to the priming Position, and half cocked immediately; a short Pause is to be made, then handle Cartridges and go on with the Loading Motions described in the Explanation of Prime and Load.

Center Rank.

SPRING the Firelock briskly to the Recover; as soon as the Left Hand seizes the Firelock above the Lock, the Right Elbow is to be nimbly raised a little, placing the Thumb of that Hand upon the Cock, the Fingers open by the Plate of the Lock, and as quick as possible force the Piece to the Cock, by dropping the Elbow, and forcing down the Cock with the Thumb, stepping at the same Time a moderate Pace, or two Feet, to the Right, keeping the Left Foot tall; as the Firelock is cocked, the Thumb is to fall below the Cock; the Right Hand seizing the Firelock close under the Cock firmly; the fore-Finger not to be before the Tricker: The Piece to be held in this Position perpendicular, opposite the Left Side of the Face, the Butt close to the Left Breast, but not pressed; the Body to be straight, and as full to the Front as possible; the Head kept up, looking to the Right of the Rank, that the Body and Firelock may not stoop forward, nor lean much out of the Rank.

Spring

Words of Command.

No. of Motions.

Explanations.

Present !

1

Spring the Firelock from the Body to Arms-length with a quick Motion, pressing down the Muzzle with the Left-Hand and spring up the Butt with the Right Hand, as in the foregoing Explanation of the Front Rank.

Fire!

1

As in Explanation Four in the Manual, with this Difference, that the Left Foot is to be brought up to the Right at the same Time that the Firelock is brought down to the priming Position.

The Loading Motions as in the Explanations of Priming and Loading, and at the last Motion of Shouldering, to spring to the Left again and cover the File Leaders.

Rear Rank.

Make ready!

2

R'ECOVER the Firelock and Cock as before directed for the Center Rank. As the Firelock is recovered and cocked, step briskly straight to the Right, with the Right Foot a full Pace, bring the Left Heel about six Inches before the Right Foot, the Body straight, and as square to the Front as possible.

Present !

1

As in Explanation of the Center Rank.

Fire!

1

As in Explanation of the Center Rank, and as the Firelock is coming down to the priming Position, the Left Foot is to be brought back to the Right, and at the last Motion of Shouldering, to spring to the Left again, and cover the File Leaders.

By Order of His Majesty,

August, 1764.

EDW. HARVEY,

Adj. Gen.

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The following is the Method generally practis'd by the Regiments at Reviews and Field-Days, in performing the Firings, Evolutions, &c. &c.

A Regiment to be drawn up as in Fig. 1st. Plate 1st. Viz.

IN three Ranks, at six Paces, or twelve Feet, Distance from one another. The Files at four Inches Distance.

An Interval of one Pace or three Feet between each Company.

The Officers four Paces Distance from the Front of their respective Companies; the Captain on the Right, the Ensign in the Center, the Lieutenant on the Left.

The Serjeants in the Rear of their respective Companies, at four Paces Distance.

The Drummers equally divided on the Right and Left of the Battalion, dressing with the Front Rank.

The Grenadier Company at ten Paces Distance from the Right of the Battalion.

The Grenadier Drummers and Fifers on the Right of that Company.

The Pioneers in one Rank on the Right of the Grenadiers, and at ten Paces Distance.

The Colonel six Paces in the Front of the Colours.

The Lieutenant-Colonel on the Left of the Colonel, and two Paces before the Officers.

The Major on the Right of the Whole.

The Adjutant on the Left.

The Chaplain, Quarter-Master, Surgeon and Mate, on the Right between the Grenadiers and the Battalion, and in a Line with the Officers.

Each Company forms a Sub-Division.

Two Companies form a Grand-Division.

The six Files of Reserve to be taken from the several Companies as follows. Three Men from each of the two Center Companies, and two Men from each of the other Companies.

If the Files are not equal in the several Companies, they must be level'd at the Regimental Parade.

The Reviewing General to be received with the Compliment due to his Rank, according to the King's Regulation of Honours.

Before the General Officer appears (if above the Rank of a Major-General) the Bayonets to be fixed.

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The General Officer being within twenty Yards of the Right of the Battalion, the Major gives the Word :

Words of Command.

Present your Arms!

And as soon as he has saluted, he posts himself in the Front and gives the Words of Command for the usual Facings.

After the General has taken his Post in the Front, the Major Orders,

Shoulder your Firelocks!

Unfix your Bayonets!

Shoulder your Firelocks!

The Regiment is then to march past the General by Grand Divisions, as in Plate 1st, Fig. 2d.

Rear Ranks close to the Front!

The Officers recover their Arms, and face to the Divisions to which they belong, according to the following Order of March.

The Serjeants advance their Halbards,

March!

The Rear Ranks step off together with their Left Feet; the Center marching five Paces and the Rear ten.

The Officers move to their Posts and halt, facing outwards from the Center.

To the Front Face!

The Officers face to the Front, and Order their Arms.

By Grand Divisions, to the Right, Wheel!

The Divisions turn their Heads to the Left.

March!

The Grenadiers and the four Grand Divisions wheel.

The

Words of Command

Halt

March

Words of Command.

Explanations.

Halt !

The Divisions turn their Heads to the Right, the Officers Order their Arms.

March !

The whole step off together.

The Regiment marches in the following Order.

The Major.

The Pioneers in three Ranks, with a Non-commissioned Officer in Front.

The Grenadier Company, the Captain advanced two Paces before the Lieutenants.

Chaplain, Quartermaster, Surgeon & Mate, in one Rank. Colonel advanced 4 Paces before the first Rank of Officers.

The Captains on the Right of the Colours, in one Rank in Front of the first Grand Division.

The Lieutenants on the Right of the Colours, in Front of the second Grand Division.

The Ensigns in Front of the third Grand Division.

The Lieutenants on the Left of the Colours, in Front of the fourth Grand Division. And

The Captains on the Left of the Colours in the Rear of it.

The Lieutenant Colonel in the Rear of the Captains.

The Adjutant in the Rear of the Whole.

The Drummers equally divided with the four Divisions, and to march in the Rear of each Division.

The Serjeants on the Right and Left of the several Ranks, with Halbards advanced.

The Ranks march in close Order till they have made the second Wheel; they are then to take their Distance at six Paces.

After they have march'd past the General, the Ranks are to close before they wheel, and to continue in close Order till the Battalion is formed.

On which the Major orders :

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Words of Command.

Explanations.

Words of Command.

Rear Ranks take your Distance!

The Rear Ranks face to the Right-about ; the Officers recover their Arms and face to their respective Companies.

Flam !

March !

The Rear Ranks step off together with their Left Feet ; the Center Rank marching five, and the Rear Rank ten Paces, halting with their Heels closed.

Flam !

The Officers take Post as at first and halt, facing outwards from the Center.

Flam and Troop !

To the Front Face !

The Rear Ranks come to the Right-about ; the Officers face to the Front, and Order their Arms, and the Serjeants their Halberds.

N. B. The Regiments sometimes march past the reviewing Officer, in companies by Fours. — This is so generally known and practised, that particular Directions are here unnecessary. When the Battalion is again form'd, the Major is to direct the General Salute as follows :

Fix your Bayonets !

Shoulder your Firelocks !

Present your Arms !

As soon as the Men come the Rest, the Drummers beat a March.

The Major then raising his Sword, and dropping the Point, gives the Signal for all the Officers to Salute together, and the Ensigns to drop the Colours.

Flam !

When the Major raises the Point of his Sword again, the Officers put their Hats on.

Flam !

Shoulder your Firelocks !

Unfix your Bayonets !

Shoulder your Firelocks !

N. B. The Battalion is form'd for Exercise as in Plate 1st. Fig. 3. in the following Manner :

Orderly

