

NEW RECRUITS STUDY GUIDE

FIRST MARYLAND REGIMENT



The **MANUAL EXERCISE**

From Von Steuben's Drill Manual

Simple Language

I

Poise ----- Musket ----- ! Two Motions

1st. You are at shoulder muskets. Now with your right hand reach across your chest, grab the musket with your right hand below the lock behind the trigger guard. Now turn the musket so the hammer of the lock is turned to your hip.

2nd. With the second motion bring the musket from your shoulder with your right hand up to your face, with the right hand even with your chin. Now bring up your left hand at the same time and grasp the musket placing your thumb behind the lock and four fingers on the feather spring in front of the lock. Make sure that you are looking over your fingers, (level with your eyes). This will place the musket directly in front of you..

II

Cock --from poise---Firelock --- ! Two motions (make ready to fire)

Practice with a wooden flint

1st. Turn the musket with your right hand so the hammer is facing you. Keep your left hand where it is. Put your thumb of your right hand on the hammer, (cock) raising the right elbow up so it is parallel to your body.

2nd. Bring the hammer back, (cock the musket), then bring down your raised elbow, immediately placing your thumb upon the breach- pin and fingers behind the trigger guard.

III

Take ---- Aim ! One Motion

Step back about six inches with your right foot, bringing the left toe to the front; at the same time drop the musket muzzle, (or elevation) and bring up the but-end of the musket against your right shoulder, placing the left hand foreword on the fore end of the stock, and the fore-finger of the right hand on the trigger, now looking down the barrel with your right eye, (known as aim). and wait for the command FIRE.

The Manual Exercise Cont.

IV

Firing your musket ! ----- One motion

Pull the trigger briskly, and then immediately bring up your right foot, come to the priming position by placing your heels even, with your right toe pointed to the right, place the lock opposite your right breast, and the muzzle pointed directly to the front be sure it is as high as your hat. Now place your left hand in front of the feather-spring and holding the musket firmly between your right arm and your right side. Now grab the cock with the fore-finger and thumb of the right hand with the back of your hand turned up. (Wait for next command)

V

Half-Cock ----Musket ! One Motion

Now pull back the hammer to half cock, bringing down your elbow to the butt of the musket. If your pan is not open then flip it forward with your right thumb.

VI

Handle ----- Cartridge ! One Motion

Now bring your right hand around to your cartridge box, lifting up your flap and seize the cartridge, then bring it up to your mouth bite off the top of the top down to the powder, then keep it at your lips and at the same time cover it with your thumb. Then bring your hand and cartridge to your chin, place your elbow in a downward position and keep it there.

VII

Priming the Pan! ----- One motion

Now shake a little powder into the pan, then cover the cartridge with your thumb again, placing the three fingers of your left hand behind the of the right hand behind the hammer with your elbow up.

The Manual Exercise Cont.

VIII

Shutting the Pan ----- ! One motion

Shut your pan with the three fingers of your right hand then bring the elbow down towards the butt of your musket. At the same time, hold the cartridge in your right hand and keep both feet in place.

IX

Charging with Cartridge --- ! Two motions

1st Now grab the musket with your left hand at the muzzle, swing up your musket to chin level, holding it in front of your chest at a angle so that the butt is over your left foot but not on the ground. Now bring up your right hand with the cartridge and put the rest of the powder down the muzzle. Shake the powder if necessary. (If ordered place the paper down the muzzle as well).

2nd Turn your musket towards using your right hand so the trigger guard is facing you. This will bring the butt slightly to your right.. Now with your left hand grab the rammer (at the small knob) with your thumb upwards, and the elbow down.

X

Drawing ---- Rammer ! Two motions

1st With your hand on the rammer, with a quick motion seizing it instantly at the muzzle back handed.

2nd Draw it out, then turn it around and place it into the muzzle. (Only needed if ramming paper).

XI

Ramming the ----- Cartridge ! one motion (VERY RARE)

Ram the cartridge down the barrel. If *ordered* to ram paper, otherwise just put powder down the barrel. If ramming paper push the paper all the way down to the powder. Now seize the ramrod preparing to pull it out.

XII

Return ---- Rammer ! One motion

Pull the rammer all the way out of the muzzle and turn it around. Place the rammer back into the pipes with your right hand, then push it down all but eight inches out and hold until commanded to return rammer is given. Now bring the musket with the left hand above your head to the shoulder position, the seizing it at the same time with the right hand under the cock, keeping the left hand at the swell.

The Manual Exercise Cont.

XIII

Shoulder ----- Musket ! Two motions

- 1st Bring down the left hand, placing it upon the butt plate.
- 2nd With a quick motion bring the right hand down by your side.

XIV

Order ----- Firelock ! Two motions

- 1st Keep the firelock held at the butt with your left hand as low as possible, and at the same time bring your right arm across and seize the firelock above the lock about six inches. with your right hand.
- 2nd Quit the firelock with the left hand, and with the right arm bring it across the body down to the right side, placing the butt on the ground, even with the toes on the right foot, the right hand now holding the musket by the barrel and keep the muzzle a little distant from the body.

XV

Ground ----- Firelock ! Two motions *NOT USED MUCH*

- 1st. From order turn your firelock, bringing the lock to the rear with your right hand, step forward with the left foot a large step, place the musket on the ground lock up, the place your left hand on the knee, to support the body, the head held up, and the right knee almost to the ground.
- 2nd. Remove your hand from the musket, raise yourself up, and bring back the left foot to its original position, this puts you at the attention position.

XVI

Take up ----- Firelock! Two motions *NOT USED MUCH*

- 1st Now stepping forward again with your left foot as before, and the right knee as before, placing your left hand on your left knee as before.
- 2nd Take hold of your musket with your right hand raise up the with the firelock, stepping back again with your left foot, bring the musket to order position.

XVII

Shoulder --- Firelock ! Two motions

- 1st Now to bring the firelock to the left shoulder, with your right hand toss the musket up a little catching it just below the tail-pipe, bring the musket across the body and placing it at your shoulder, putting it in your left hand at the butt.
- 2nd With a quick motion bring the right hand down by your side.

The Manual Exercise Cont.

XVIII

Secure ----- Firelock ! Three motions.

1st Bring up your musket across your body and place it under the cock. (Wrist of the musket)

2nd Take your left hand off the butt moving it up to the swell, with your left hand bringing your elbow down to the lock, keeping your right hand, keeping the musket upright.

3rd Let go with your right hand, and bring it down by your side, and at the same time with your left hand move the muzzle foreword, at the same time placing the stock between the arm and body, bring the muzzle down to within one foot of the ground, hold the left hand in a line with the waist belt and your arm covering the lock.

XIX

Shoulder ---- Firelock ! Three motions (from secure)

1st Bring your arm across your body and grab the musket with your right hand under the cock. (At the wrist)

2nd Place your left upon the butt.

3rd. Taking your right hand off the musket, bring it down by your right side.

XX

Fix ---- Bayonet ! Three motions (It takes a lot of practice)

1st Take your right hand and cross your body grabbing the musket under the lock.

2nd Move your left hand from the butt and grab the musket at the swell, being sure to keep your elbow close to the lock. Keep your right hand in place, keep the musket upright.

3rd Let go of the musket with your right hand, move the musket down with your left hand so that the butt is just off the ground and musket held straight up. Now grab your bayonet with your right hand, draw and fix it upon the muzzle. When complete bring the musket to your shoulder with your right hand, Left hand still at the swell. This will keep your right hand at the muzzle with your arm across your chest.

XXI

Shoulder ---- Firelock ! Three motions (From fix bayonet)

1st Let go of the musket, bring the musket up with your right hand to your shoulder, grab it again with your right hand under the lock.

2nd Bring the left hand down to the butt.

3rd Now bring your right hand down to your side.

The Manual Exercise Cont.

XXII

Present ----- Arms ! Three motions

1st and 2nd motion the same in coming to poise. (See page 1.)

3rd Stepping back with your right foot, and placing it several inches from your left heel, at the same time bring down the musket to the rest position placing it as far down before your left knee as your right hand will permit, holding your right hand under the trigger guard, bringing the musket perpendicular, during this motion you let go with your left hand, and place it again just below the tail pipe.

XXIII

Shoulder ---- Firelock ! One motions (from Present)

Lift up your right foot and place it by your left foot, and at the same time bring the musket to your left shoulder, and seize the butt end with your left hand, coming to the position of the first motion of secure. (See page 5)

XXIV

Preparation for Charge ---- Bayonet ! Two motions

1st Bring up the right hand and place it upon the cock. Now remove your left hand from the butt, place it upon the swell, then bring the arm close upon the lock, keeping your right hand where it is, keeping the musket upright.

2nd Bring the butt of the musket under the right arm, letting the musket fall down on the palm of the left hand, which receives it at the swell, pointing the muzzle straight ahead,, the butt pressed with the arm against your right side. Front rank holds there muskets horizontally, and rear rank will hold their muzzles up straight high as the heads of the front rank.

XXV

Shoulder --- Firelock ! Two motions (from Charge Bayonets)

1st Bring up your musket to your shoulder, placing your left hand on the butt.

2nd Then bring your right hand down by your right side.

The Manual Exercise Cont.

XXVI

Advance ----- Arms ! Four motions.

- 1st Execute the first motion of poise. See page 1
- 2nd Execute the second motion of poise. See page 1
- 3rd Bring the firelock down to your right side, placing the left hand at the swell, and instantly shifting the position of the right hand take the trigger guard between the thumb between the forefinger, and bring the three fingers under the cock, keeping the barrel to the rear.
- 4th Quit the musket with the left hand, bring it down by your left side.

XXVII

Shoulder--- Firelock from Advance ! Four motions

- 1st Bring your left hand up and seize the firelock at the swell, and then instantly shifting the right hand from split fingers to seize the musket by the lock, bring the musket to poise. (See poise page 1)
- 2nd Come up to poise. See pose page 1
- 3rd and 4th, Shoulder your firelock.

Position of Rank in Firing

Front Rank ! Make Ready ! Fire !

From shoulder move your firelock to the recover, as soon as the left hand seizes the firelock above the lock, the right elbow is to be raised a little, placing the thumb of the right hand upon the hammer, with the fingers open and off to the side, now cock the firelock by dropping the right elbow, forcing down the cock with the thumb, immediately seizing the firelock with the right hand, close under the lock. The musket is to be held in this manner perpendicular and to the left side of the face, the body is to be kept straight, and to the front, and head held up. You stay this way until given the order to make ready, aim, fire.

If given the order to prime and load again after firing, come to priming position and reload. Then bring the musket to the shoulder or recover.

Rear Rank ! Make Ready ! Fire !

Recover the musket as described above, and at the same time stepping about six inches to the right, so as to place yourself opposite the shoulder of the front rank. (Placing your left hand on his shoulder with the musket, resting on the right shoulder of the man in the front rank.) Take aim, Fire.

The Manual Exercise Cont.

Orders to Fire.

You will be given different orders as to firing.

1. Fire by battalion
2. Company fire
3. Fire by platoon
4. Fire individual at your will

Remember never draw your rammers unless specifically ordered to ram paper. Always have elevation of the muzzle unless there is a good distance to the opposition.

If your musket stops firing you become a casualty.

Position of the Soldier in Wheels

Note: In order to do wheels, the line must be dressed.

Dressing to the right or left

To dress to the right or left, you need to make light contact with the soldier on the side you are dressing to, without crowding him, and advance or retire, till you can just see the breast of the second man from him. You are not to stoop but keep your head and body upright.

----- Teaching to Wheel -----

To the Right ----- Wheel!

Once dressed at the word of command all men turn their heads to the **LEFT**, except the last soldier on the left.

Front ----- March!

All step off, observing to feel the hand of the soldier they are wheeling to, without crowding the right hand man, the last soldier on the left is the **pivot** for the rest to turn on, he gains **no ground, but turns on his heels**. After the company has reached the completion of the turn you will be given the command to front (march on) or to halt.

To the left ----- wheel!

As explained above except every soldier looks to the right, except the the right hand man who looks left. He is the pivot man.

NOTE: The pivot man controls the speed to the wheel. It is important that all of the other soldiers watch his movements. The last soldier farthest from pivot must take larger steps and all others shorter steps so that the line will be straight as you turn. If in the back rank all you have to do is follow and pace of the soldier in front of you there is no pivot man in the back rank.

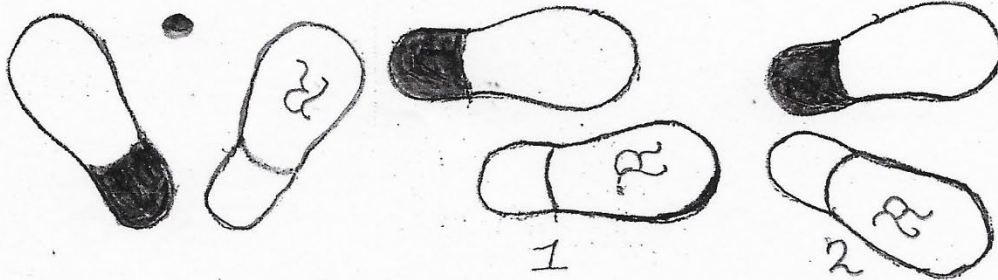
POSITION OF FEET FOR THE SOLDIER

Right Face

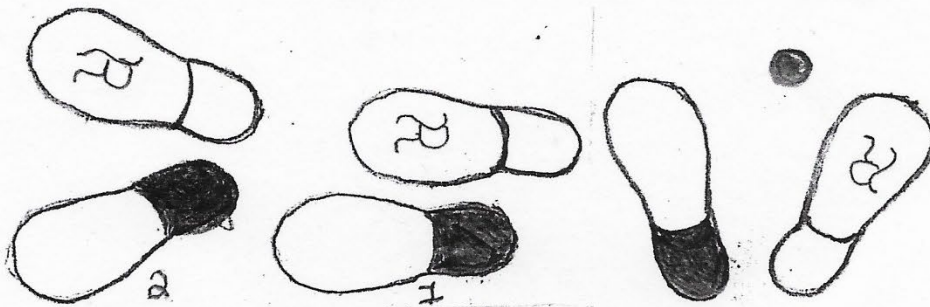
Left Face

Right About Face

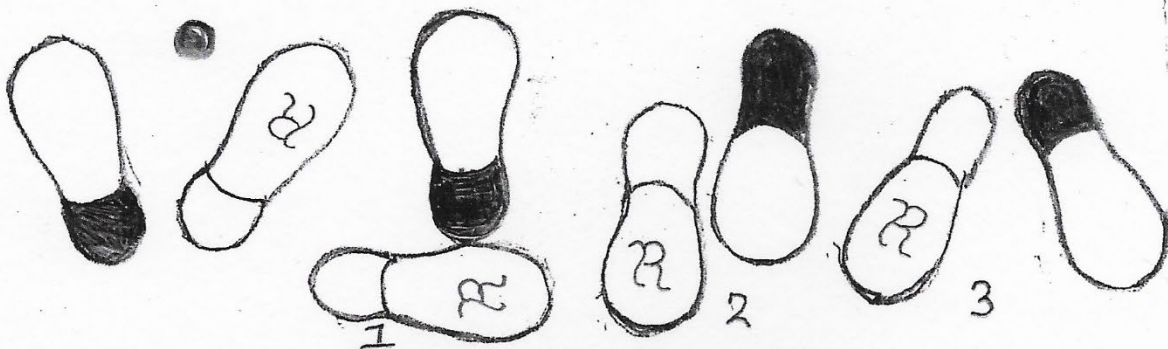
Left About Face



Right Face ---- (Two Motions)



Left Face ---- (Two Motions)

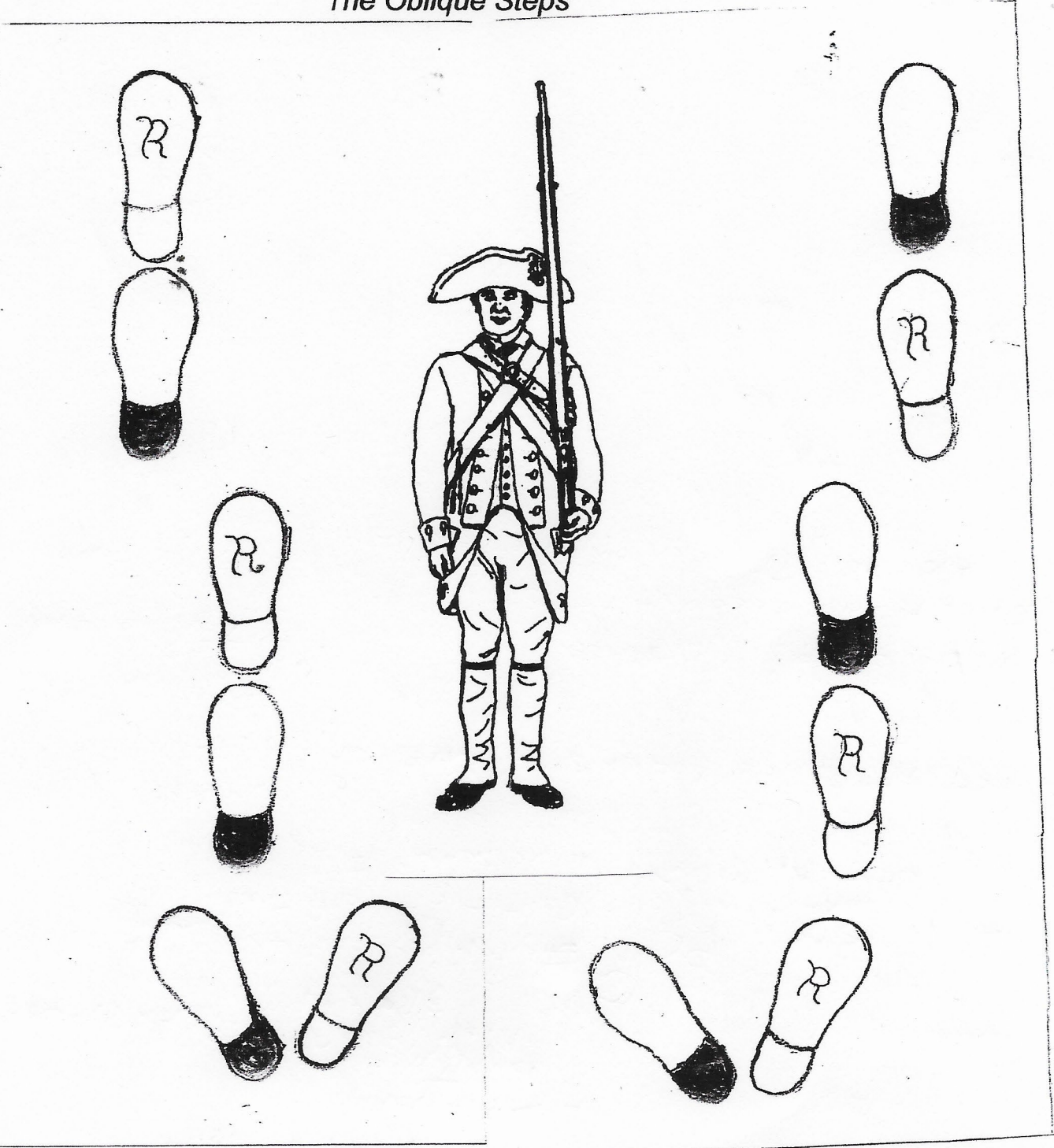


Right About Face ---- (Three Motions)



Left About Face ---- (Three Motions)

POSITION OF FEET FOR THE SOLDIER
The Oblique Steps



Left Oblique Steps

Right oblique Steps

Quick Info. Guide

Proper way to put on your KIT over small cloths, regimental, hunting frock. These go on first. Bent forget your hat.

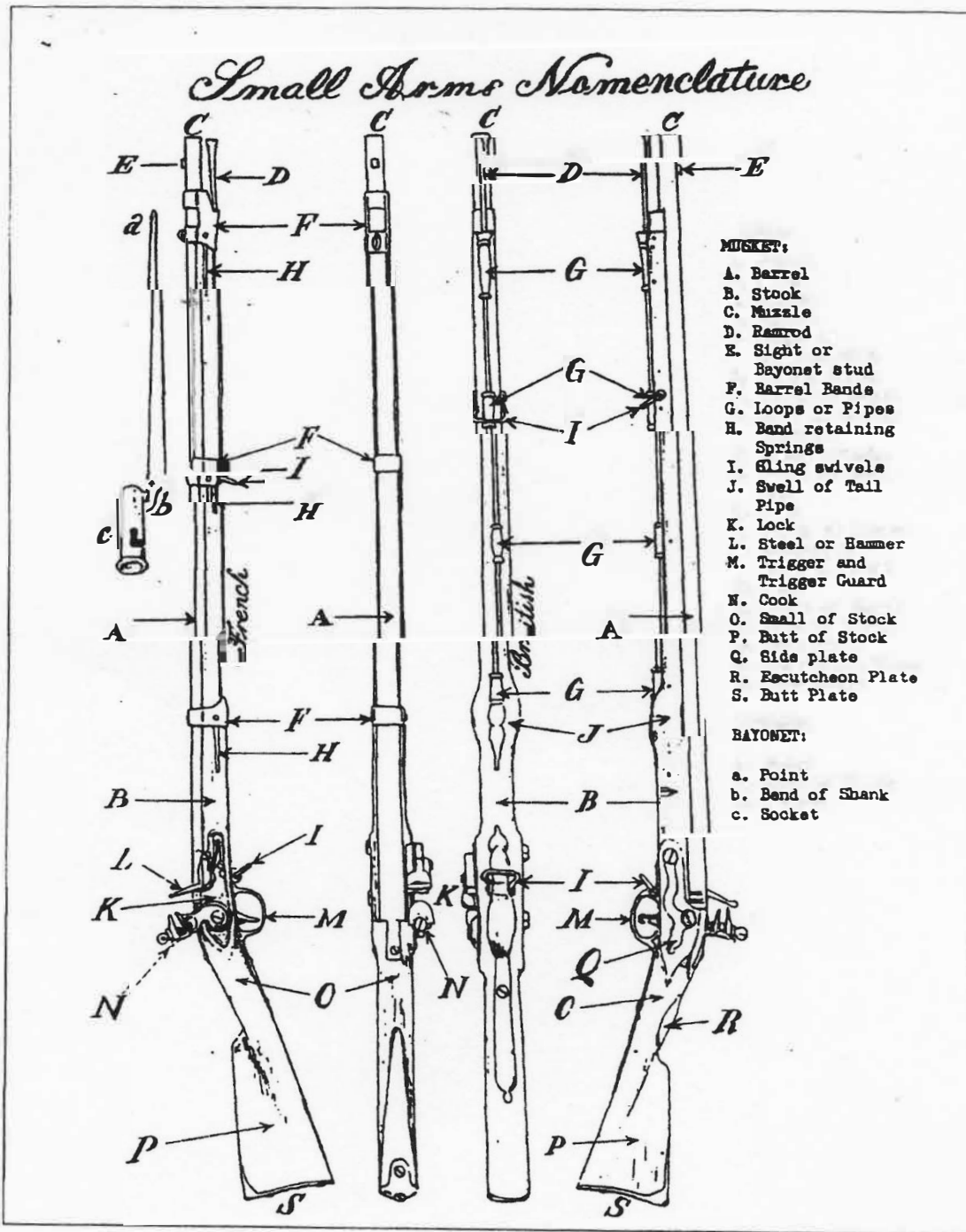
1. **Haversack**. Place over your head so strap is on the right and pouch on your left side
2. **Bayonet** . Place over your head so strap is on the right and the bayonet is on your left side over the haversack.
3. **Cartridge Box**. Place over your head so that the strap is on your left side and cartridge box on your right.
4. **Canteen**. Place over your head so that the strap is on the right and canteen placed to your left and back so that it is away from the haversack and bayonet.
5. **Musket** MUST have a *flash guard, frizzen cover and shoulder sling*
6. **Knapsack** if required. slung over the left shoulder.

REMEMBER when a soldier of The First Maryland is called to fall in on the Sargent or formation, **WE ALWAYS FALL IN WITH BAYONETS FIXED.**

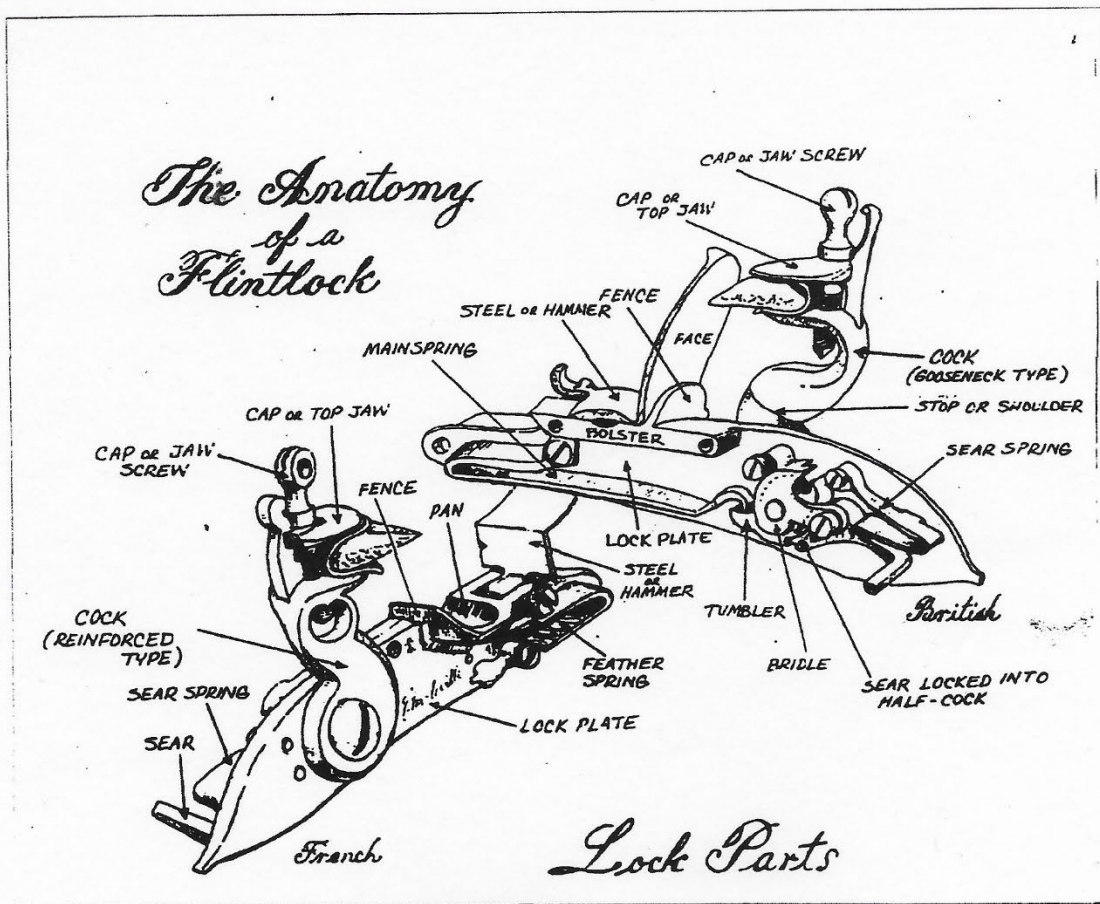
Carrying positions while on the march.

- A. **Shoulder Arms**, musket on your left held by left hand on the butt and muzzle straight up.
- B. **Support Arms**. crossed arms in front of your body musket resting on the left elbow.
- C. **Advance Arms**. Musket on the right side with fingers around trigger guard.
- D. **Trail Arms** musket carried in your right hand with the muzzle up and carried on your right side.

Appendix C



Appendix D



BARON Von STEUBEN'S
REVOLUTIONARY WAR
MANUAL EXERCISE –

Quick List

Take care to perform the Manual
Exercise

QUICK LIST

1. Poise, Firelock
2. Cock, Firelock
3. Take Aim
4. Fire

**Assuming
Priming
Position**

5. Half-cock,
Firelock
6. Handle,
Cartridge
7. Prime
8. Shut Pan
9. Charge with Cartridge
10. Draw, Rammer
11. Ram Down,
Cartridge
12. Return,
Rammer
13. Shoulder,
Firelock
14. Poise, Firelock
15. Cock, Firelock
16. Take, Aim
17. Fire

FULL LIST

1. Poise Firelock
2. Cock, Firelock
3. Take Aim
4. Fire
5. Shut, Pan
6. Half-cock, Firelock
7. Handle, Cartridge
8. Prime
9. Charge with Cartridge
10. Draw, Rammer
11. Ram Down Cartridge
12. Return, Rammer
13. Shoulder, Firelock
14. Order, Firelock
15. Ground, Firelock
16. Take up, Firelock
17. Shoulder, Firelock
18. Secure, Firelock
19. Shoulder, Firelock
20. Fix, Bayonet
21. Shoulder, Firelock
22. Present, Arms
23. Shoulder, Firelock
24. Charge, Firelock
25. Shoulder Firelock
26. Advance Arms
27. Shoulder Firelock

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CAPTAIN

A captain cannot be too careful of the company the state has committed to his charge. He must pay the greatest attention to the health of his men, their discipline, arms, accoutrements, ammunition, clothes, and necessaries.

His first object should be, to gain the love of his men, by treating them with every possible kindness and humanity, enquiring into their complaints, and when well founded, seeing them redressed. He should know every man of his company by name and character. He should often visit those who are sick, speak tenderly to them, see that the public provision, whether of medicine or diet, is duly administered, and procure them besides such comforts and conveniences as are in his power. The attachment that arises from this kind of attention to the sick and wounded, is almost inconceivable; it will moreover be the means of preserving the lives of many valuable men.

He must divide his company into four squads, placing each under the particular care of a non-commissioned officers, who is to be answerable for the dress and behavior of the men of his squad. He must be very particular in the daily and weekly inspections of his men, causing all deficiencies to be immediately supplied; and when he discovered any irregularity in the dress or conduct of any soldier, he must not only punish him, but the non-commissioned officer to whose squad he belongs.

He must keep a strict eye over the conduct of the non-commissioned officers; oblige them to do their duty with the greatest exactness; and use every possible means to keep up a proper subordination between them and the soldiers: For which reason he must never rudely reprimand them in presence of the men, but at all times treat them with proper respect.

He must pay the utmost attention to everything which contributes to the health of the men, and oblige them to keep themselves and every thing belonging to them in the greatest cleanliness and order. He must never suffer a man who has any infectious disorder to remain in the company, but send him immediately to the hospital, or other place provided for the reception of such patients, to prevent the spreading of the infection. And when any man is sick, or otherwise unfit for duty, or absent, he must see that his arms and accoutrements are properly taken care of, agreeably to the regulations prescribed.

He must keep a book, in which must be entered the name and description of every non-commissioned officer and soldier of his company; his trade or occupation; the place of his birth and usual residence; where, when and for what term he enlisted; discharges, furloughs, copies of all returns, and every casualty that happens in the company. He must also keep an account of all arms, accoutrements, ammunition, clothing, necessaries, and camp equipage delivered his company, that on inspecting it he may be able to discover any deficiencies.

When the company arrive at their quarters after a march, he must not dismiss them till the guards are ordered out, and (if cantoned) the billets distributed, which must be as near together as possible; and he must strictly prohibit his men from vexing the inhabitants, and cause to be punished any that offend in that respect.

He must acquaint them with the hours of roll-call and going for provisions, with their alarm post, and the hour of march in the morning.

If the company make any stay in a place, he must, previous to their marching, inspect into their condition, examine their knapsacks, and see that they carry nothing but what is allowed, it being a material object to prevent the soldier loading himself with unnecessary baggage.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE LIEUTENANT.

The lieutenant, in the absence of the captain, commands the company, and should therefore make himself acquainted with the duties of that station; he must also be perfectly acquainted with the duties of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers, and see them performed with the greatest exactness.

He should endeavor to gain the love of his men, by his attention to everything which may contribute to their health and

convenience. He should often visit them at different hours; inspect into their manner of living; see that their provisions are good and well cooked, and as far as possible oblige them to take their meals at regulated hours. He should pay attention to their complaints, and when well founded, endeavor to get them redressed; but discourage them from complaining on every frivolous occasion.

He must not suffer the soldiers to be ill-treated by the non-commissioned officers through malevolence, or from any pique or resentment; but must at the same time be careful that a proper degree of subordination is kept up between them.

Although no officer should be ignorant of the service of the guards, yet it particularly behooves the lieutenant to be perfectly acquainted with that duty; he being oftener than any other officer entrusted with command of the guard- a trust of the highest importance, on the faithful execution of which the safety of an army depends; and in which the officer has frequent opportunities to distinguish himself by his judgment, vigilance and bravery.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ENSIGN

The ensign is in particular manner charged with the cleanliness of the men, to which he must pay the greatest attention.

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, observing whether they are clean, and every thing about them in the best order possible, and duly noticing any who in these respects are deficient.

He must be very attentive to the conduct of the non-commissioned officers, observing that they do their duty with the greatest exactness; that they support a proper authority, and at the same time do not ill treat the men through any pique or resentment.

As there are only two colors to a regiment, the ensigns must carry them by turns, being warned for that service by the adjutant. When on that duty, they should consider the importance of the trust reposed in them; and when in action, resolve not to part with the colors but with their lives. As it is by them the battalion dresses when marching in line, they should be very careful to keep a regular step, and by frequent practice accustom themselves to the march straight forward to any given object.

INSTRUCTION FOR THE PRIVATE SOLDIER

The recruit having received his necessaries, should in the first place learn to dress himself with a soldier-like air. To place his effects properly in his knapsack, so as to carry them with ease and convenience; how to salute his officers when he meets them; to clean his arms, wash his linen and cook his provisions. He should early accustom himself to dress in the night; and for that purpose always have his effects in his knapsack, and that placed where he can put his hand on it in a moment, that in case of alarm he may repair with the greatest alertness to the parade.

When learning to march, he must take the greatest pains to acquire a firm step and proper balance, practicing himself at all his leisure hours. He must accustom himself to the greatest steadiness under arms, to pay attention to the commands of his officers, and exercise himself continually with his firelock, in order to acquire vivacity in his motions. He must acquaint himself with the usual beats and signals of the drum, and instantly obey them.

When in the ranks, he must always learn the names of his right and left hand men and file-leader, that he may be able to find his place readily in case of separation. He must cover his file-leader and dress well in his rank, which he may be assured of doing when he can just perceive the breast of the third man from him. Having joined his company, he must no longer consider himself as a recruit, but as a soldier; and whenever he is ordered under arms,