

CEASE - FIRE

THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT COMMAND WITH MANY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS! When the order CEASE - FIRE is given, all troops should remain in the PREPARE TO PRIME AND - LOAD position. The following orders should then be given:

HALF-COCK YOUR - FIRELOCKS

SHUT - PANS

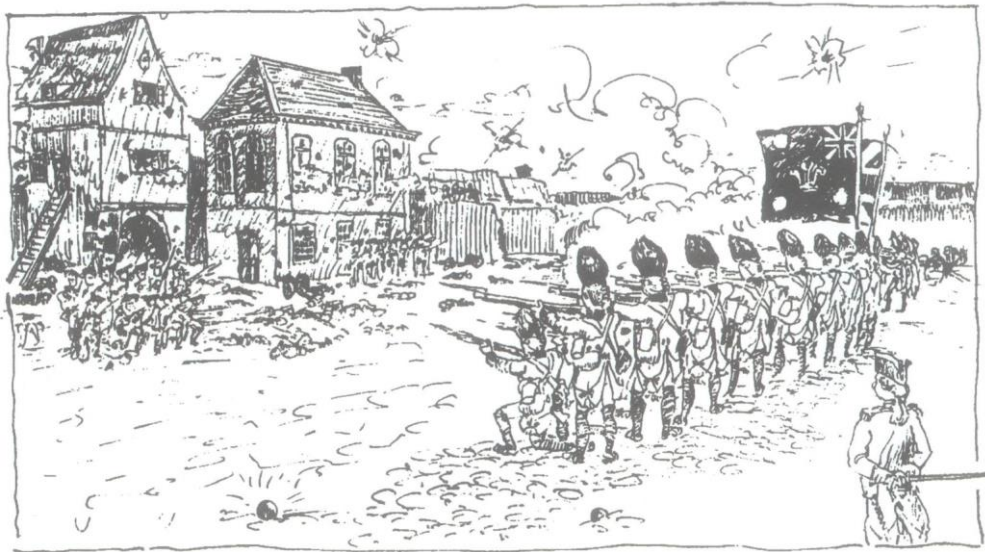
RETURN - HAMMERSTALLS

SHOULDER YOUR - FIRELOCKS

The Officer/NCO may order you to SECURE and open pans. (If he does not, discretely remind him that you are loaded.)

(Ed. Note: I have not elaborated on these movements because they should be easily enough accomplished using the motions described in priming and loading. This is a safety modification from the original manual. In the original, the soldier was to reload and come to the SHOULDER. For safety reasons, this is not the case here)

ANY MAN, REGARDLESS OF RANK, CAN CALL "CEASE - FIRE" AT ANY TIME IF HE SEES AN UNSAFE SITUATION. IT'S BETTER TO DO IT AND MAYBE TAKE SOME RIBBING LATER RATHER THAN TO LET SOMEONE GET HURT!



Artwork by John Wright

SOME ADDITIONAL COMMANDS

In some versions and printings of the "Manual Exercise of 1764, " there are some additional commands and explanations which were certainly practiced by the troops. We have adopted the following:

"Some occasional words of command, with explanations: "

FIELD FACINGS

(Ed Note: These are not apart of the 1764 Manual Exercise and bear no number in the sequence. They are, however, used quite frequently - much more than the formal facings described above. Other additional commands and movements are included.)

Field facings are performed with the same foot movements as those previously described. There is no movement of the firelock from the SHOULDER, ADVANCE, or other carry position. When given the command to FACE if you have your firelock at any position other than REST or PRESENT your - ARMS, the field facing is used.

Facing movements to the right, left, right about and left about should first be taught without arms to familiarize the recruit with the mechanics without being hampered with a musket. In the 1792 Regulations there is a simple aid which will help to learn the century facing movements which states: "In going through the facings, the left heel never quits the ground; the body must incline forward, and the knees kept straight. "

^a (Ed. Note: This illustration shows a Fusilier at the position of REST your - FIRELOCK. All facing orders received while in this position must be executed with the full "35 Count" sequence of movements.)

REVERSE Your - FIRELOCKS

or

REST ON YOUR ARMS - REVERSED

(Also sometimes given as: "REST ON YOUR FIRELOCKS - FIRELOCKS REVERSED, STAND ON YOUR ARMS - REVERSED or MOURN - ARMS")

(from the Rest position - only)



(Ed. Note: This movement is usually associated with mourning and is used in memorial services.)



1. Maintaining your left hand on the swell of the firelock and using it as a pivot, turn the firelock with your right hand at the small of the stock - SLOWLY - taking your cadence from the man on your right, so that the firelock reverses itself with the muzzle nearest to the ground.
2. SLOWLY - move your left foot forward so that it is directly beneath the muzzle.
3. SLOWLY - lower the muzzle until it rests on your left foot. Then place first your left and next your right hand over the butt of your firelock and lower your head so that your forehead rests upon the back of your right hand. Drawing by Don Ellis

REST your - FIRELOCKS (from the Reverse Position)

1. SLOWLY - raise your head erect and move your right hand to the small of the stock and your left hand to the swell of the firelock.
2. SLOWLY - raise the firelock off your left foot and move your left foot back to the position it was in before you Reversed your firelock,
3. SLOWLY - using your left hand as a pivot turn the firelock back to the Rest position - SLOWLY - taking your cadence from the man on your right.

(Ed. Note: Always have a well trained soldier on the right!!!)

SUPPORT Your - FIRELOCKS

1. While raising the firelock slightly with the left hand, grasp with the right at the small of the stock.
2. Bring the left hand across the body to strike the right breast; the cock of the musket should be held in the crook of the left arm.
3. Release with the right hand, and let the hand fall sharply to the right side.

While marching the right hand is kept firmly gripping the firelock, the left hand being tucked between the right arm and the body.

If commanded to march while at the Support, the right hand shall grasp the firelock at the small (wrist) as the left foot strikes the ground.

At the Command - Shoulder! Grasp the butt of the musket with the left hand; throw your right hand down by your side.

CHARGE your - BAYONETS

(From the position of ADVANCE your FIRELOCKS. The "Common Advance")

1. Reach across the body with your left hand - moving it slightly forward to catch the firelock.
2. With the right, let the barrel fall forward to drop in the left hand while bringing the feet to the positions described previously.
3. If ordered back to the position of ADVANCE your FIRELOCKS, simply reverse the process.

(Ed. Note: Non-commissioned officers and officers who are at the Advance when the other ranks are at the Shoulder should wait one count to allow the men to Recover their Firelocks before beginning this movement. This will allow all to come to the Charge together.)

's

UNFIX your - BAYONETS

1. Same as in Fix Bayonets #1
2. Same as in Fix Bayonets #2
3. Same as in Fix Bayonets #3
4. Remove Bayonet from barrel, and return it to its scabbard.
5. Place the right hand across the barrel as in Fix Bayonets, with the right fore-finger under the bayonet stud, with the piece kept close to the hollow of the shoulder and the elbow even with the hand.

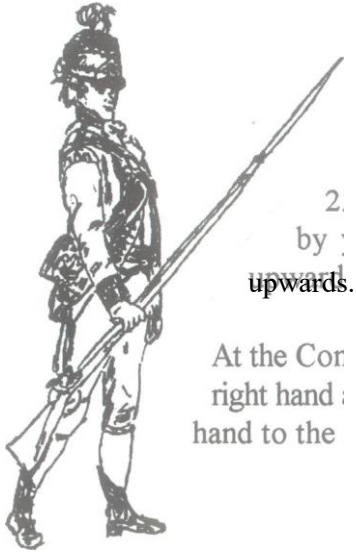
SHOULDER your - FIRELOCKS

1. Raise the firelock to the Shoulder position while the right hand grasps the small.
2. Release the left hand and strike it upon the musket butt.

3. Release the right hand and drop it smartly to the right side.

TRAIL your - FIRELOCKS

(Ed. Note: Performed only from the SHOULDER)



1. Bringing up the right hand, seize the firelock just below the swell, the little finger touching, or being near the left shoulder, and at about the same height.

2. Release the left hand and bring the firelock with the right hand down by your right side. Hold it in a sloping position, pointing the muzzle

At the Command - Shoulder! Bring the musket to your left shoulder with your right hand and grasp the butt of the musket with your left hand. Drop your right hand to the right side.