



School Of The Soldier

MANUAL OF ARMS

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Instructions to the Instructor

- Place the men in a single rank until they are proficient, then in two ranks
 - S.S. 134. The manual of arms will be taught to four men, placed, at first, in one rank, elbow to elbow, and afterwards in two ranks.
- The Manual of Arms is a well orchestrated manipulation of the musket.
 - It is not a race.
 - It is expected to be executed by all men the same way and at the same rate.
- Each command is broken up into motions
 - S.S. 135. Each command will be executed in one time (or pause), but this time will be divided into motions, the better to make known the mechanism.
- Each motion is executed in 2/3rd of a second , i.e., “fixed at the ninetieth part of a minute”
 - S.S. 136. The rate (or swiftness) of each motion, in the manual of arms, with the exceptions herein indicated, is fixed at the ninetieth part of a minute; but, in order not to fatigue the attention, the instructor will, at first, look more particularly to the execution of the motions, without requiring a nice observance of the cadence, to which he will bring the recruits progressively, and after they shall have become a little familiarized with the handling of the piece.
 - $1/90 * 1 \text{ minute} = 1/90 * 60 \text{ seconds} = 60/90 \text{ seconds} = 2/3 \text{ seconds}$
- Loading the musket and fixing and unfixing the bayonet
 - Is not expected to be executed by all men at the same rate
 - Is expected to be executed by all men the same way
 - S.S. 137. As the motions relative to the cartridge, to the rammer, and to the fixing and unfixing of the bayonet, cannot be executed at the rate prescribed, nor even with a uniform swiftness, they will not be subjected to that cadence. The instructor will, however, labor to cause these motions to be executed with promptness, and, above all, with regularity.

Instructions to the Instructor

- The instructor steps the men through the sequence of motions, one motion at a time
 - S.S. 138. The last syllable of the command will decide the brisk execution of the first motion of each time (or pause). The commands *two, three, and four, will decide the brisk execution of the other motions. As soon as the recruits shall well comprehend the positions of the several motions of a time, they will be taught to execute the time without resting on its different motions; the mechanism of the time will nevertheless be observed, as well to give a perfect use of the piece, as to avoid the sinking of, or slurring over, either of the motions.*
- Paragraph S.S. 138 describes the cadence to be used.
 - It begins with the last syllable of the command of execution followed by the commands “two, three, and four”.
 - If we pronounce the commands as a dance instructor might: “and TWO, and THREE, and FOUR”, we can succeed in our efforts to execute the motions with promptness and regularity.
- The instructions provided in S.S. 136 and S.S. 138 are very important:
 - S.S. 136: “the instructor will, at first, look more particularly to the execution of the motions, without requiring a nice observance of the cadence, to which he will bring the recruits progressively, and after they shall have become a little familiarized with the handling of the piece.,” and
 - S.S. 138: “As soon as the recruits shall well comprehend the positions of the several motions of a time, they will be taught to execute the time without resting on its different motions; the mechanism of the time will nevertheless be observed, as well to give a perfect use of the piece, as to avoid the sinking of, or slurring over, either of the motions.”
- Avoid sinking of or slurring = This means NO SHORTCUTS!
 - Execute the motion properly.
 - Perform each step in the motion.
 - Execute each motion in the time allotted.

Commands for Manual of Arms

- *Shoulder-ARMS.*
- *Support-ARMS.* (3 motions)
- REST.
- *Attention-SQUAD.*
- *Shoulder-ARMS.* (3 motions)
- *Present-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- *Shoulder-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- *Order-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- REST.
- *Attention-SQUAD.*
- *Shoulder-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- *Trail-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- *Shoulder-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- *Secure-ARMS.* (3 motions)
- *Shoulder-ARMS.* (3 motions)
- *Right shoulder shift-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- *Shoulder-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- *Support-ARMS.* (3 motions)
- *Right shoulder shift-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- *Support-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- *Arms-AT WILL.*
- *Shoulder-ARMS.* (1 motions)
- *Order-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- *Ground-ARMS.* (2 motions)
- *Raise-ARMS.* (2 motions)

Drill Aid = “Manipulation of the Musket”

- I have gathered and consolidated all the instructions from the varied Schools of Instructions, to enable us to maximize the little time we get to drill and focus on related maneuvers.
- I have categorized the instructions into the following focus areas:
 - Manipulation of the Musket
 - Inspection Arms
 - Loading the Musket
 - Firing the Musket
 - Bayonet Exercise
 - Parade Rest

7th Maryland Manual of Arms

- Introduction to Reference Material
 - Annotated instructions related to handling the musket
 - Retains the original School of the Soldier paragraph numbering.
 - Available on the 7th MD Website, Library
 - http://www.7thmaryland.com/uploads/7th_Md_Manual_Of_Arms_V4.pdf
 - [7th MD Manual of Arms](#)
 - Detailed review reserved for another day
- Touch on two points addressed in the document
 - Inspection Arms
 - Parade Rest

Inspection Arms

- 238. The instructor will then inspect in succession the piece of each recruit, in passing along the front of the rank.

{soldier presents the arm to the instructor for inspection}

- Each, {recruit} as the instructor reaches him, will
- raise smartly his piece with his right hand,
- seize it with the left between the lower band and guide sight,
- the lock to the front,
- the left hand at the height of the chin, ←
- the piece opposite to the left eye;

{the instructor takes the arm, inspects arm, and returns arm to the soldier}

- the instructor will
- take it with the right hand at the handle and, ←
- after inspecting it,
- will return it to the recruit,

{soldier receives the arm from the instructor}

- who will
- receive it back with the right hand, and ←
- replace it in the position of ordered arms.

{soldier returns to the position of Ordered Arms}

Don't skip this step.

- It looks sharp!
- More importantly, this makes it easy for the inspector to
"take it with the right hand at the handle"

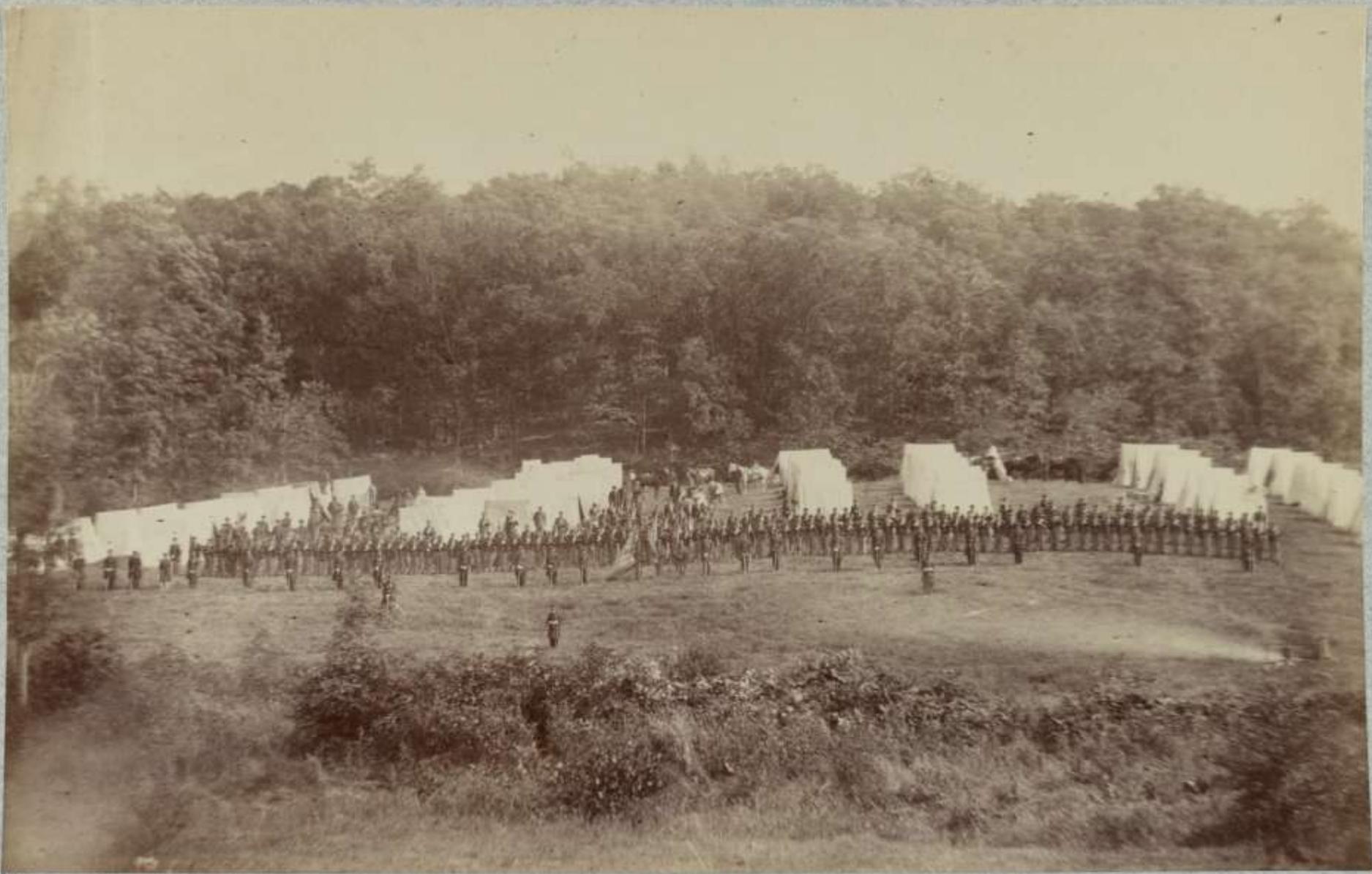
Word of Caution About the Inspection

- Inspectors
 - Never try to force the musket to fail the half-cock by pushing the back of the hammer toward the cone.
 - Never try to force the musket to fail the half-cock by excessive pressure on the trigger pull.
 - 10-12 pounds pressure, no more
 - i.e., hang the musket upside down with your finger on the trigger
 - Every Gunsmith I have spoken with has told me that these actions will damage the internal mechanisms.
 - Damage repair is expensive
 - Parts (2014 Lodgewood Mfg. Ltd. Prices)
 - 1861 Armisport Springfield Complete Lock: \$200
 - 1861 Armisport Springfield Tumbler: \$29
 - 1861 Armisport Springfield Main Spring: \$29
 - 1861 Armisport Springfield Sear Spring: \$12
 - Plus gunsmith's fees to install
- Soldiers
 - If you ever see an inspector trying to force a hammer to fail,
 - DO NOT PRESENT YOUR MUSKET FOR INSPECTION!!!
 - IF HE ALREADY HAS YOURS, TAKE IT BACK!!!!
 - Are they going to pay for it when they break it?

Parade - REST

- At the command *rest*,
 - turn the piece on the heel of the butt,
 - the barrel to the left,
 - the muzzle in front of the centre of the body;
 - seize it at the same time with the left hand just above, and with the right at the upper band;
 - carry the right foot six inches to the rear,
 - the left knee slightly bent.



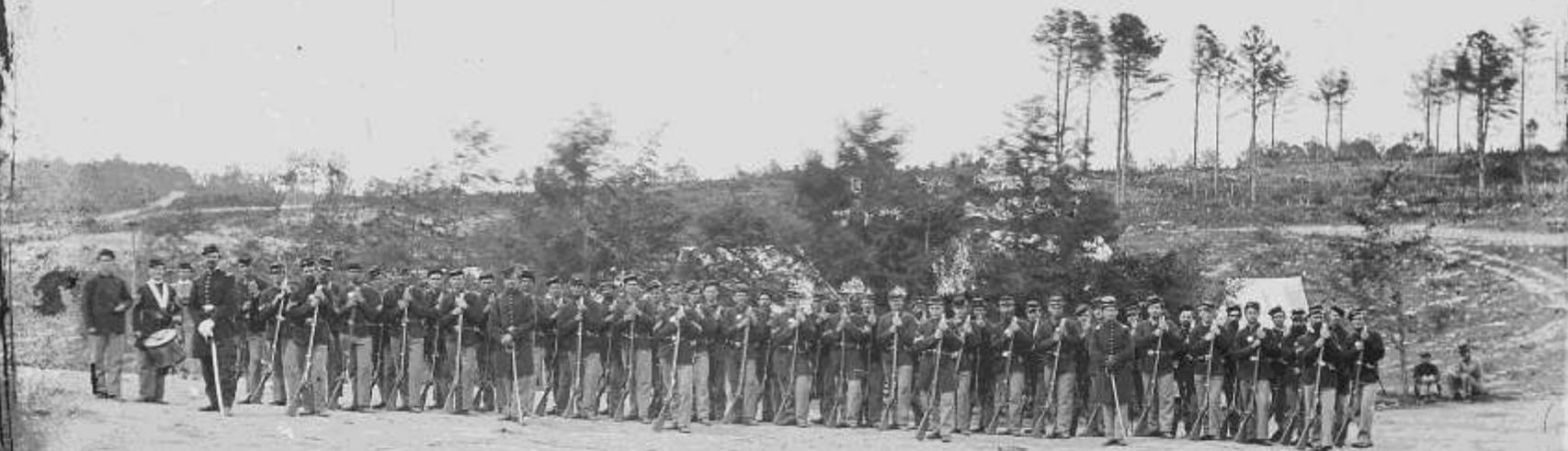


50th Pennsylvania Infantry, Gettysburg, Pa., July, 1865

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/ppmsca.33199/?co=cwp>

1st New York

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Infantry on parade

U.S. National Archives' Local Identifier: 111-B-348

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usnationalarchives/4166929568/in/set-72157624287859202>

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