



A SEMINAR ON CASEY'S SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

SCHOOLS OF THE SOLDIER AND COMPANY

MANUAL OF ARMS

STEVE GIOVANNINI

8 JULY 2026

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 two thirds of a second
 - 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!**
 - Perform each step in the motion.
 - Execute each motion in the time allotted.

Commands for Manual of Arms

- *Shoulder-ARMS.*
 - (starting position)
- *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)