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OIA-2025-5595

25th November 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 10 November 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), copies of the following New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) drill manuals *from the 1960s-1988 with specific content regarding Arms Drill with the L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle:*

- NZ Army - NZ P6 Army Drill Manual (1960-1988 edition w/L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle drill)
- RNZN - BRd 1834 NZ Supplement 001 (1960-1988 edition w/L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle drill)
- RNZAF - NZAP 2.4 (1960-1988 edition w/L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle drill)

Copies of the relevant documents are no longer held by the NZDF. During searches for the requested information, NZDF personnel contacted the Air Force Museum of New Zealand. That museum holds a copy of NZAP 818, Chapter 10, that contains the relevant information for the 7.62 millimetre self-loading rifle. A copy is enclosed for your reference.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley
Brigadier
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. NZAP 818, Chapter 10

CHAPTER 10

7.62 MILLIMETRE SELF-LOADING RIFLE

General Instructions

1. The most common fault in rifle exercises is lack of control over the rifle, which causes movement of the body. In rifle exercises the upper arm and elbow are kept close to the body and there should be no movement of the head or body except where specifically given in the following detail. Common faults are annotated with each drill movement.
2. All rifle exercises are taught by numbers. When judging the time all movements are made as sharply as possible, a regulation pause being counted between each movement. (Movements are at 60 to the minute.)
3. The sling should be taut along the left side of the rifle, adjusted with the lower slide approximately four inches above the lower sling swivel.
4. Rifles and bayonets on parade should be clean and dry, as for inspection.
5. When reference is made to the rifle being vertical, it should be understood that it is the barrel of the rifle which is vertical, the butt pointing slightly forward.

Attention

6. The normal position of Attention is maintained except that the right hand is to hold the right side so that the barrel is vertical; thumb gripping the left side of the rifle and touching the leg; fingers together on the right of the rifle, slanting towards the ground; back of the hand to the right and wrist well behind the rifle; butt of the rifle on the ground, toe of the butt in line with the seam of the toecap of the boot; magazine pointing directly to the front. (See Fig. 27.)

Note.—For men with normal length of arm, the right hand will fit conveniently above the foresight at the position of Attention. For men with long arms, the right hand will fit below the foresight. For some men, however, the right hand with the arm extended fits directly behind the foresight; this is an impossible grip, and such men, rather than lean over and hold the rifle with the arm extended below the foresight, must slightly bend the right arm and hold it above.

Common faults:

- (i) Butt in the wrong position.
- (ii) Rifle not vertical, *i.e.* muzzle poking forward or to the left or right.

Fig. 27. Attention



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- (iii) Back of the right hand to the front.
- (iv) Fingers not together and allowed to curl around the front of the rifle.

Stand at Ease

7. On the command

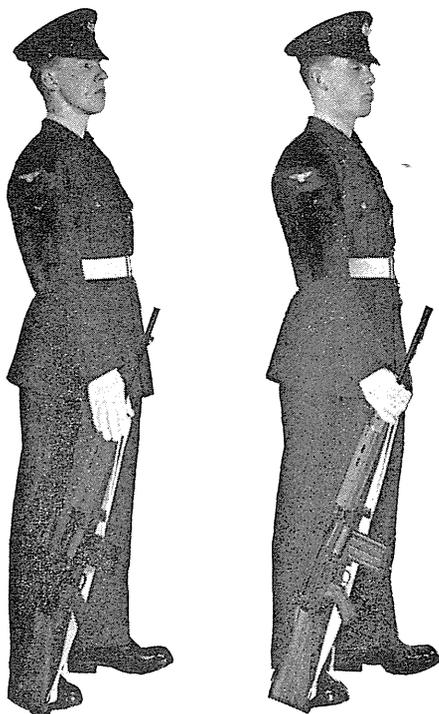
STAND AT - EASE

the left knee is to be bent carrying the left foot off 12 inches to the left so that the body is evenly balanced on both feet. At the same time, the rifle is to be forced out to the front to the full extent of the right arm, keeping the upper arm and elbow close to the body. (See Fig. 28.)

Common faults:

- (i) Moving the butt.
- (ii) Lack of co-ordination between arm and leg.
- (iii) Allowing the rifle to swing sideways.
- (iv) Putting the fingers round the front of the rifle.

Fig. 28. Stand at Ease Fig. 29. Stand Easy



Stand Easy

8. On the command

STAND - EASY

the body is to be relaxed and the fingers allowed to curl round the rifle. (See Fig. 29.)

Common faults:

- (i) Moving the feet.
- (ii) Allowing the rifle to move.

Stand at Ease from Stand Easy

9. On the precautionary word of command

FLIGHT, SQUADRON, etc.

the body is to be braced and the fingers of the right hand straightened.

Attention from the Stand at Ease

10. On the command

ATTEN - TION

the rifle is to be pulled into the side, the butt being kept on the ground. The left knee is to be bent slightly and the left foot brought in smartly to the right without stamping; the left arm being kept still at the side.

Common faults:

- (i) Moving the butt and banging it on the ground.
- (ii) Lack of co-ordination between foot and arm movement.

The Short Trail

11. The right arm is to be bent slightly to raise the butt of the rifle one inch from the ground; the rifle being kept still at the side.

12. This position is to be used when moving short distances, or during dressing when the airman is required to take up a new alignment.

Common faults:

- (i) Failing to keep the rifle still to the side.
- (ii) Allowing the muzzle to swing forward.
- (iii) Curling the fingers and thumb round the rifle.

The Shoulder from the Position of Attention

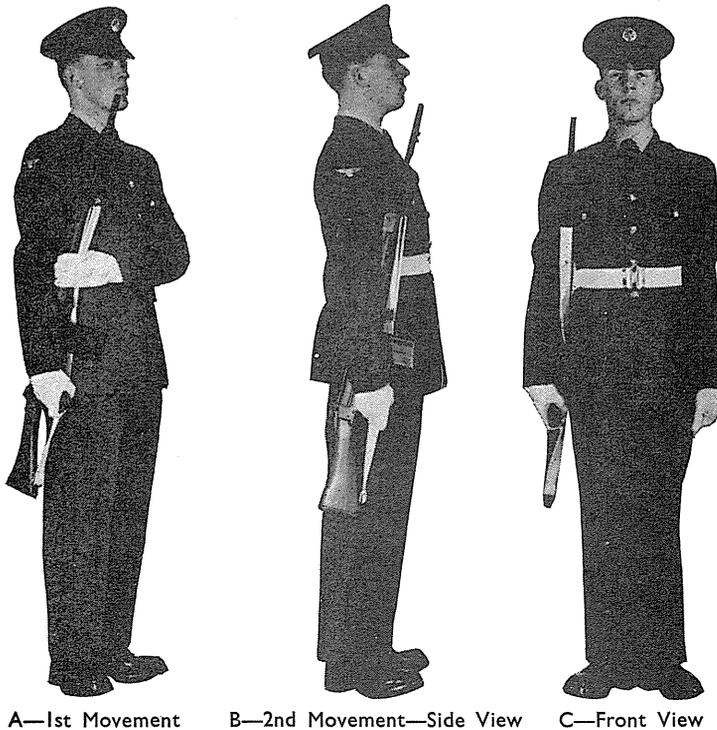
13. The Shoulder from the position of Attention is carried out in two movements. On the command

SHOULDER - ARMS

(a) ONE. The rifle is to be thrown upwards, slightly forward and in front of the right shoulder with a vigorous flick of the right wrist, the elbow being kept as straight as possible, and released at approximately the level of the waist belt, the right arm being jerked straight again; at the same time the left hand is to be brought across the body, striking and seizing the rifle at the bottom of the stock, forcing the rifle into the right shoulder, with forearm horizontal. The pistol grip is to be grasped firmly with the right hand, thumb around the pistol grip, back of the hand to the right. The rifle is to be held with the right hand at the position of attention without arms, the barrel leaning forward. (See Fig. 30 (A).)

(b) TWO. The left hand is to be cut the nearest way to the position of Attention, the wrist kept stiff and the fingers curling on the downward travel; the rifle being kept still. (See Fig. 30 (B) and (C).)

Fig. 30. Shoulder Arms



Common faults:

First Movement.

- (i) Failing to release the rifle with the right hand soon enough to allow both hands to seize the rifle at the same time.
- (ii) Failing to keep the arms and rifle close to the body.
- (iii) Dropping the right shoulder to the rear.

Second Movement.

- (i) Failing to keep the left elbow close to the body.
- (ii) Moving the rifle when the left hand quits it.

The Order from the Shoulder

14. The Order from the Shoulder is carried out in three movements. On the command

ORDER - ARMS

- (a) ONE. The grip is to be retained with the right hand and the left hand brought across the body to strike and seize the barrel below the bayonet stud, the left elbow being kept close to the body. (See Fig. 31 (A).)
- (b) TWO. The rifle is to be released with the right hand and lowered to the right side, with the butt about half an inch above the ground and against the boot. At the same time, with the right elbow kept into the side, the rifle is to be grasped near the upper sling swivel as for the position of Attention. (See Fig. 31 (B).)

(c) THREE. The left hand is to be cut to the left side, the rifle lowered gently to the ground, and the correct position of Attention resumed.

Fig. 31. Order from the Shoulder Arms



A—1st Movement

B—2nd Movement

Common faults:

First Movement.

- (i) Failing to move the left hand by the shortest way.
- (ii) Failing to keep the left elbow close to the body.

Second Movement. Dropping the right shoulder to the rear.

Third Movement.

- (i) Banging the butt on the ground.
- (ii) Cutting the left hand away in a circular movement and allowing it to go too far to the rear.

The Present from the Shoulder

15. The Present from the Shoulder is carried out in three movements. On the command

PRESENT - ARMS

(a) ONE. The stock is struck and seized with the left hand, fingers together round the rifle, thumb to the inside, and with the left forearm parallel to the ground. As the left hand strikes the rifle, the right hand releases the pistol grip, the right arm is extended, and the butt is caught with the fingers and thumb of the right hand. (See Fig. 32 (A).)

Note.—The fingers and thumb of the right hand are to be in the same position as at Attention.

Fig. 32. Present from the Shoulder



(b) TWO. The rifle is to be controlled with the right hand and forced up in front of the centre of the body so that it is perpendicular, with the magazine to the front and about three inches in front of the nose. At the same time, the left hand is to be taken away from the stock and driven on to the left side of the rifle, with the fingers and thumb extended, palm, wrist and forearm against the rifle, wrist opposite the magazine, elbow forced into the side of the butt, and tip of the thumb in line with the mouth. (See Fig. 32 (B).)

(c) THREE. The rifle is to be pulled straight down in front of the body to the fullest extent of the right arm, the rifle being kept perpendicular and about three inches in front of the body. (The position of the fingers and thumb of the right hand are to be as when at the Order.) At the same time the left hand is to quit the rifle and, with the elbow forced into the left side, seize the bottom of the stock, fingers close together round the front of the rifle, thumb perpendicular

up the left side, wrist straight; at the same time the hollow of the right foot is to be placed against the left heel. (See Fig. 32 (C) and (D).)

Common faults:-

First Movement.

- (i) Left forearm not parallel with the ground.
- (ii) Dropping the right shoulder to the rear.

Second Movement.

- (i) Rifle not being kept close enough to the body, thereby causing a "pitchforking" effect.
- (ii) Failure to have the left elbow along the butt.
- (iii) Forcing the rifle too high in front of the body.

Third Movement.

- (i) Pushing the rifle upwards before starting the downward movement of the right hand.
- (ii) Left hand too high up the stock on completion of the movement.

The Shoulder from the Present

16. The Shoulder from the Present is carried out in two movements. On the command

SHOULDER - ARMS

- (a) ONE. The rifle is to be forced to the Shoulder Arms position, the stock pushed well back with the left hand and the right hand transferred to the pistol grip at the same time.
- (b) TWO. The right knee is to be bent and the right foot replaced in the position of Attention; at the same time the left hand is to be cut to the side.

Common fault:

First Movement. Failing to keep the rifle in a vertical position at the right side.

The Present from the Order

17. The Present Arms from the Order is carried out in three movements. On the command

PRESENT - ARMS

- (a) ONE. The rifle is to be thrown straight up the right side with a vigorous flick of the wrist, with the elbow still, and released before the right hand reaches the level of the waistbelt, the right arm being jerked straight again. At the same time the left arm is to be moved across the body, the stock struck and seized with the left hand, with left forearm parallel with the ground, the rifle being forced into the right shoulder. The fingers and thumb of the left hand are to be closed round the stock, and as the left hand strikes the rifle the butt is to be caught with the fingers and thumb of the right hand.

Note.—The fingers and thumb of the right hand are to be in the same position as at Attention.

- (b) TWO. As for para. 15(b).
- (c) THREE. As for para. 15(c).

Common faults:

First Movement.

- (i) Failing to release the rifle with the right hand soon enough to allow both hands to grasp the rifle at the same time.
- (ii) Dropping the right shoulder to the rear.
- (iii) Left forearm not parallel with the ground.

Second Movement. As for para. 15, common faults, second movement.

Third Movement. As for para. 15, common faults, third movement.

The Order from the Present

18. The Order from the Present is carried out in three movements. On the command

ORDER - ARMS

(a) ONE. The left hand is to maintain its grip of the rifle, which is to be seized with the right hand at the top of the stock (fingers of the right hand as for the position of the Order), and at the same time the right foot brought smartly up in line with the left. (See Fig. 33.)

(b) TWO. With the right hand the rifle is to be forced down to the right side, butt about half an inch above the ground, and the barrel below the lower stud seized with the left hand.

(c) THREE. The left hand is to be cut to the side, the rifle lowered to the ground, and the position of Attention resumed.

Fig. 33.
Order from the Present
1st Movement



Common faults:

First Movement. Pushing rifle away from the body with the left hand.

Second Movement. Thumb of the left hand not being kept to the front of the barrel.

Third Movement.

- (i) Dropping the butt to the ground.
- (ii) Cutting the left hand away in a circular movement.

Ground Arms

19. Ground Arms is carried out in two movements. On the command

GROUND - ARMS

(a) ONE. The knees are to be opened and the body bent forward, with back straight, allowing the heels to leave the ground. The rifle is to be laid gently on the ground at the right side, magazine to the right, muzzle pointing straight to the front, foresight in line with the toe of the right boot, left arm straight and against the body and hip. The head is to be kept back, eyes to the front, not looking down.

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(b) TWO. The right hand is to release the rifle and the position of Attention is to be resumed.

Common faults:

First Movement.

- (i) Muzzle not pointed to the front.
- (ii) Banging the butt on the ground.
- (iii) Opening the heels.
- (iv) Looking down.

Second Movement. Too slow.

The Order from Ground Arms

20. The Order from the Ground Arms position is carried out in two movements. On the command

TAKE UP - ARMS

(a) ONE. The body is to be bent forward as in the first movement of the Ground Arms, the rifle seized with the right hand in the original position by the right toe, and the muzzle raised sufficiently so that the thumb and fingers may be put round the rifle.

(b) TWO. The position of Attention is to be resumed and the rifle brought quickly to the correct position.

Common faults:

Second Movement. Dragging the butt along the ground.

Fixing Bayonets from the Order

21. To fix bayonets from the Order position, the words of command are

SQUAD WILL FIX BAYONETS - FIX - BAYONETS

(Note that there are two executive words of command.)

On the executive word of command

FIX

the rifle is to be forced out to the full extent of the right arm as for the position of Stand at Ease. The bayonet handle is to be seized with the left hand (back of the hand against the body, thumb over the ends of the flash-hider prongs of the bayonet and fingers around the handle of the bayonet) and the scabbard rotated anti-clockwise. The left elbow is to be straightened and the bayonet withdrawn. The bayonet should now be held along the left buttock and be invisible from the front, fingers together and extended down the side of the bayonet handle, little finger coinciding with the outer edge of the leg. (See Fig. 34 (A).)

Common faults:

- (i) Bending the body to the right.
- (ii) Failing to push the rifle fully forward with the right hand.

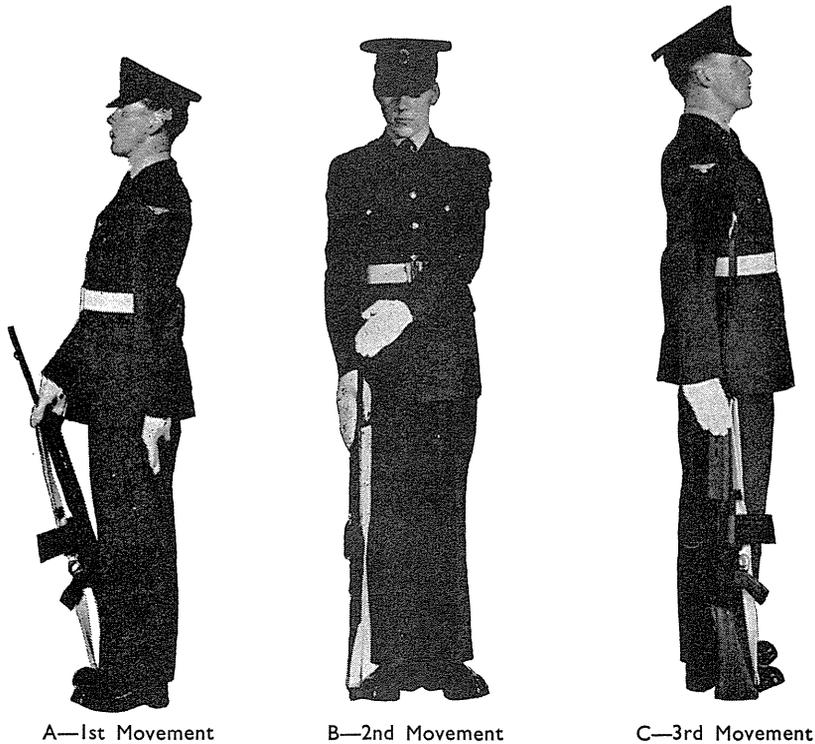
On the executive word of command

BAYONETS

the head is to be turned downwards and to the right and the eyes directed to the muzzle of the rifle. At the same time the bayonet is to be brought between the body and the arm and fixed on the rifle, the groove in the

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Fig. 34. Fix Bayonets



bayonet handle being fitted over the bayonet standard and the bayonet ring over the muzzle. The bayonet is to be pushed down until the catch engages, and the bayonet handle released with the left hand and struck with the palm of the hand so that the left arm is straight, fingers and thumb together and extended in continuation of the line of the arm, thumb along the top cross-piece and to the left of the bayonet blade. (See Fig. 34 (B).)

Common faults:

- (i) Leaning forward.
- (ii) Left hand and arm not correctly positioned after the bayonet is secured.

On the command

ATTEN - TION

the rifle is to be pulled into the right side, the left arm cut to the side, and the head turned to the front in the correct position of Attention. (See Fig. 34 (C).)

Common fault:

First Movement. Too slow.

Unfixing Bayonets from the Order

22. To unfix bayonets from the Order position, the words of command are

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SQUAD WILL UNFIX BAYONETS, UN - FIX - BAYONETS

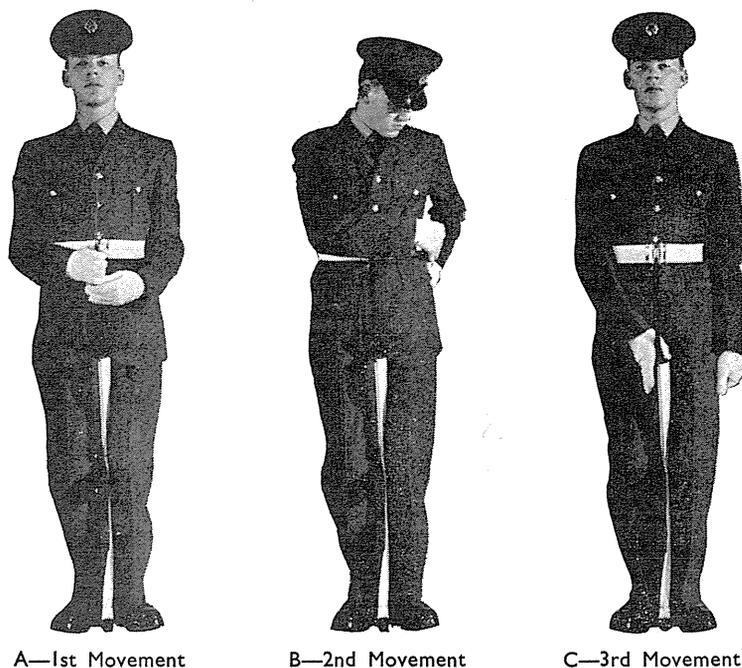
(Note that there are two executive words of command.)

On the command

UN - FIX

the rifle is to be lifted with the right hand over the right instep and the butt placed on the ground between the feet so that the heel of the butt is forced in to the angle formed by the heels and the butt is flat on the ground. The rifle is to be gripped between the knees (which should be slightly bent) and struck on the barrel with the cupped left hand just below the bayonet handle. The grip is to be maintained with the left hand and the bayonet handle struck with the cupped right hand; the retaining spring pressed with the thumb of the left hand; the bayonet forced off the rifle and lifted clear of the nosecap so that the blade is perpendicular with the edge to the front. (See Fig. 35 (A).)

Fig. 35. Unfix Bayonets



Common faults:

- (i) Failing to grip the rifle between the knees.
- (ii) Opening the heels.
- (iii) Looking down at the bayonet.

On the command

BAYONETS

with a flick of the right wrist, the bayonet is to be turned over to the left so that the flat of the blade strikes the left hip. The bayonet frog is to be seized and pushed as far forward as possible for the mouth of the scabbard to receive the bayonet. The bayonet is to be forced fully home in

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the scabbard, left elbow straight to the rear, shoulders square to the front, right elbow close to the front of the body. As the right wrist flicks the bayonet over in the initial movement, the head is to be turned downwards and to the left, so that the eyes can just see to insert the bayonet into the scabbard. (See Fig. 35 (B).)

Common faults:

- (i) Failing to keep the shoulders square to the front.
- (ii) Bringing the left elbow to the front.
- (iii) Right elbow not kept close to the body.

On the command

ATTEN - TION

the stock of the rifle is to be struck with the right hand and gripped as for the position of Attention; at the same time, the head is to be returned to the position of Attention. (See Fig. 35 (C).) A regulation pause is to be counted, the rifle lifted over the right instep, and the position of Attention resumed.

Common fault:

Lack of co-ordination between head, arms and knees.

The Port from the Order

23. The Port from the Order is carried out in two movements. On the command

PORT - ARMS

(a) ONE. The rifle is to be thrown up into the position of the first movement of the Shoulder from the Order (see para. 13).

Fig. 36. Port from the Order



(b) TWO. The left knee is to be bent and the foot placed on the ground 15 inches directly in front of its position of Attention. At the same time, with the left shoulder moved forward slightly, the muzzle is to be forced downwards and forwards with the left hand, and the right arm bent so that the rifle is in front of the right shoulder at an angle of about 45 degrees, the muzzle at eye level and the butt pressed firmly between the body and the right forearm. As the rifle is forced to this position the right hand is to be changed to the firing position on the pistol grip with the forefinger outside the trigger guard. (See Fig. 36.)

Common fault:

Pivoting to the right on the right foot as the pace forward is taken.

The Order from the Port

24. The Order from the Port is carried

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out in three movements. On the command

ORDER - ARMS

(a) ONE. The left knee is to be bent to resume the position of Attention. At the same time, the right hand is to be moved to the pistol grip, and the rifle struck and seized at the same place as that held at the Order, back of the hand to the right, fingers and thumb curled round the rifle, forearm and elbow against the stock.

(b) TWO. The rifle is to be forced down to the right side, butt about half an inch from the ground and against the boot. At the same time, the barrel is to be struck and seized with the left hand below the lower bayonet stud, as in the Order from the Shoulder.

(c) THREE. The left hand is to be cut to the side to the position of Attention, the butt lowered gently to the ground and the rifle pulled back to the correct position of the Order.

The Port from the Shoulder

25. The Port from the Shoulder is carried out in two movements. On the command

PORT - ARMS

(a) ONE. The bottom of the stock is to be struck and seized with the left hand, back of the hand to the front, fingers and thumb curled round the rifle.

(b) TWO. The left knee is to be bent and the rifle forced forward to the correct position in front of the right shoulder as in Port from the Order (see para. 23). At the same time the right forefinger is to be placed outside the trigger guard.

The Shoulder from the Port

26. The Shoulder from the Port is carried out in two movements. On the command

SHOULDER - ARMS

(a) ONE. The left knee is to be bent to resume the position of Attention. At the same time, the rifle is to be forced back to the position of the Shoulder, the grip of the right hand being changed to its correct position on the pistol grip.

(b) TWO. The left hand is to be cut to the side to resume the position of Attention.

For Inspection Port Arms

27. For Inspection Port Arms is carried out in six movements. On the command

FOR INSPECTION, PORT - ARMS

(a) ONE. }
(b) TWO. } The Port Arms as already taught.

(c) THREE. The position of the rifle being maintained in this and subsequent movements, the magazine is to be removed with the left hand and placed in the left trouser pocket. This movement is to be completed by straightening the fingers and thumb against the outside of the pocket.

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- (d) FOUR. The cocking handle is to be grasped and unfolded with the thumb over the top and the remaining fingers curled up.
- (e) FIVE. The action is to be cocked and the holding open device pushed up with the second or third finger of the left hand.
- (f) SIX. The left hand is to be returned to the stock as in the position of the Port.

Ease Springs

28. The order Ease Springs is carried out in seven movements. On the command

EASE - SPRINGS

- (a) ONE. The position of the rifle is to be maintained (in this and subsequent movements) and the safety catch moved to "R" with the right thumb.
- (b) TWO. The cocking handle is to be grasped with the left hand, pulled back, and the working part allowed to go forward and the cocking handle to fold.
- (c) THREE. With the position of the left hand maintained on the cocking handle, the trigger is to be operated with the right forefinger and returned to the outside of the trigger guard.
- (d) FOUR. The safety catch is to be put to "S" with the left forefinger and thumb.
- (e) FIVE. The magazine is to be taken with the left hand from the trouser pocket and held outside it.
- (f) SIX. The magazine is to be placed in the rifle and held firmly with the left hand.
- (g) SEVEN. The left hand is to be returned to the stock as in the position of the Port.

Note.—In normal inspections each man, after being inspected, is to Ease Springs, Order Arms and Stand at Ease individually when the inspecting officer has passed the man next but one to him.

Examine Arms

29. On the command

EXAMINE - ARMS

with the position of the rifle maintained, the thumb of the right hand is to be placed into the ejection opening at an angle of 45 degrees so that the thumbnail reflects light into the barrel. (See Fig. 37.)

On the command

FOR INSPECTION, PORT - ARMS

with the position of the rifle maintained, the pistol grip is to be seized with the right hand.

Note.—In normal inspections the inspecting officer will order individuals to Examine Arms as he reaches them. Men having been so ordered are to return to the "For Inspection Port Arms" position as the officer moves to the next man to be inspected. They are then to Ease Springs, Order Arms and Stand at Ease as previously detailed.

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The Salute at the Shoulder

30. The salute with the rifle is to be carried out at the shoulder. The action of the hand is the same whether the salute is to the front or to the flank. The head and eyes only are turned if the salute is to the flank. On the command

TO THE FRONT - SALUTE

(a) ONE. The left hand is to be brought smartly across the body, with forearm parallel to the ground. The stock is to be struck with the palm of the hand, so that the knuckle of the thumb is parallel with the outer edge of the stock, fingers and thumb together and extended, back of the hand to the front, elbow forced into the body. (See Fig. 38.)

(b) TWO. The left hand is to be brought smartly to the side.

Fig. 37. Examine Arms



Fig. 38. Salute at the Shoulder



Common faults:

- (i) Forearm not parallel to the ground.
- (ii) Fingers and thumb not together.
- (iii) Left elbow pushed forward.

The High Port from the Order

31. The High Port is used when doubling with the rifle. On the command

HIGH PORT - ARMS

the rifle is to be thrown up directly to a position diagonally across the body, muzzle leading, magazine to the front, and the bottom of the stock seized with the left hand, which is to be in line with the left shoulder.

At the same time the pistol grip is to be grasped with the right hand, forefinger outside the trigger guard, right elbow forced down on the butt, and the back sight about one inch from the body. (See Fig. 39 (A) and (B).)

Fig. 39. High Port from the Order



Common faults:

- (i) Holding the rifle too close to the body.
- (ii) Left elbow not kept into the side.
- (iii) The fingers of the left hand not curled round the stock.
- (iv) Right elbow not forced onto the butt.

The Order from the High Port

32. The Order from the High Port is carried out in three movements. On the command

ORDER - ARMS

- (a) ONE. The right hand is to be removed from the pistol grip and the stock struck and seized approximately where the right hand will be at Attention, with the right forearm and elbow close to the rifle.
- (b) TWO. The right hand is to force the rifle down to the right side, butt about half an inch above the ground, and the left hand is to strike and seize the bayonet handle (when bayonets are fixed) or the end of the barrel (when bayonets are unfixed).
- (c) THREE. The left hand is to be cut to the side, the rifle lowered gently to the ground, and the correct position of Attention resumed.

Common faults:-

First Movement. Failing to keep the forearm and elbow close on to the rifle.

Third Movement.

- (i) Banging the butt on the ground.
- (ii) Cutting the left hand away in a circular movement and allowing it to go too far to the rear.

The High Port from the Shoulder

33. The High Port is carried out in two movements. On the command

HIGH - PORT

- (a) ONE. The left hand is to strike and seize the bottom of the stock, back of the hand to the front, fingers and thumb curled round the rifle.
- (b) TWO. The left hand is to force the rifle diagonally across the body to the correct position of the High Port (see para. 31). At the same time, the right hand is to be brought to the firing position on the pistol, forefinger outside the trigger guard.

The Shoulder from the High Port

34. The Shoulder Arms from the High Port is carried out in two movements. On the command

SHOULDER - ARMS

- (a) ONE. The rifle is to be forced to the Shoulder Arms position with the left hand, the grip of the right hand changing on the pistol grip as the rifle moves to the right side.
- (b) TWO. The left hand is to be cut to the side.

Common faults:

First Movement. Forcing the rifle butt too far to the rear.

Second Movement. Cutting the left hand away in a circular movement and allowing it to go too far to the rear.

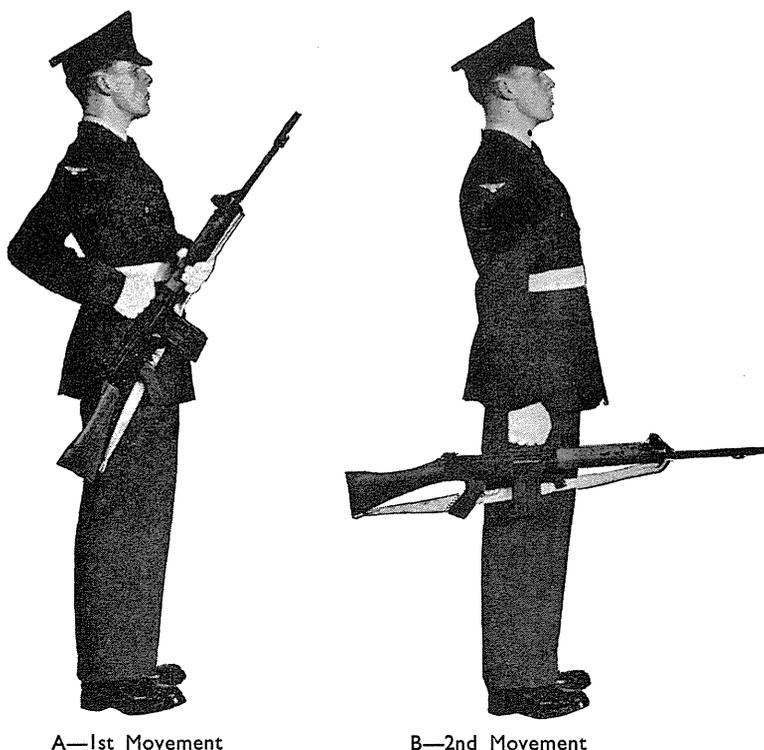
The Trail from the Shoulder

35. The Trail Arms from the Shoulder is carried out in three movements. On the command

TRAIL - ARMS

- (a) ONE. The left hand is to be brought across the body and is to seize the bottom of the stock, with the left elbow close to the body and the forearm parallel to the ground.
- (b) TWO. The right hand is to be brought up by the shortest route and is to strike the rifle on the right side, level with the carrying handle, which is immediately to be pulled out and gripped in the carrying position. (See Fig. 40 (A).)

Fig. 40. Trail from the Shoulder



(c) THREE. The rifle is to be lowered to a horizontal position at the full extent of the right arm, muzzle pointing directly to the front. At the same time, the left hand is to be cut away to the side. (See Fig. 40 (B).)

Common faults:

First Movement. Failing to keep the elbow and arm close to the body.

Second Movement. Pushing the muzzle forward.

Third Movement. Rifle not horizontal and not pointing directly forward.

The Shoulder from the Trail

36. The Shoulder Arms from the Trail is carried out in four movements. On the command

SHOULDER - ARMS

(a) ONE. With the right wrist and forearm, the muzzle of the rifle is to be forced upwards, the rifle being kept close to the right side; at the same time, the bottom of the stock is to be struck and seized with the left hand and the rifle driven into the shoulder, left forearm parallel to the ground.

- (b) TWO. With the right hand, the carrying handle is to be pushed into the closed position, and the fingers straightened along the magazine.
- (c) THREE. The right hand is to be returned to the pistol grip.
- (d) FOUR. The left hand is to be cut away to the side.

The Change at the Trail

37. The Change at the Trail is carried out in four movements. On the command

CHANGE - ARMS

- (a) ONE. The rifle is to be raised to a vertical position in front of the centre of the body, magazine to the front, right upper arm and elbow close to the side, right forearm horizontal. At the same time, the lower end of the stock is to be struck and seized with the left hand, the left elbow being kept close to the side. (See Fig. 41.)
- (b) TWO. The right hand is to strike and seize the stock immediately above the left hand.
- (c) THREE. The left hand is to be moved to grasp the carrying handle.
- (d) FOUR. The rifle is to be lowered to a horizontal position at the left side, the arm being kept close to the side to prevent a back swing. At the same time the right hand is to be cut away to the side.

To Change Arms from left to right, the above drill is to be reversed.

Common faults:

- (i) Moving the rifle while changing hands in the second and third movements.
- (ii) Failing to keep the elbows close to the sides at all times.

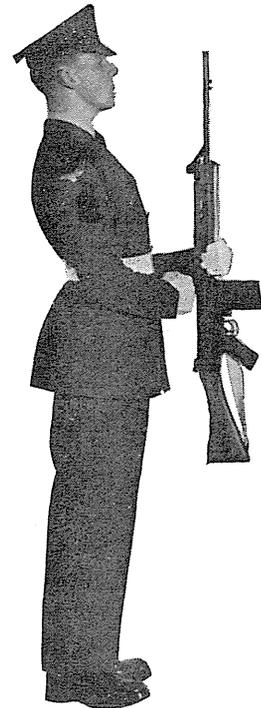
Turning About at the Trail

38. When airmen marching at the Trail are ordered to turn about, they are to raise the rifle to a perpendicular position in front of the right shoulder as the left foot comes to the ground on the first pace of the turn. On the command

ABOUT - TURN

- (a) ONE. As the left foot comes to the ground on the first pace of the turn, the upper arm is to be kept steady at the side. At the same time the rifle is to be raised to the perpendicular position in front of the right shoulder (magazine to the front). The elbow is to be held close to the side. The forearm is to be horizontal and the hand in line with the waist belt.

Fig. 41.
Change Arms at the Trail
1st Movement



(b) TWO. The rifle is to be lowered as the right foot goes forward to resume marching.

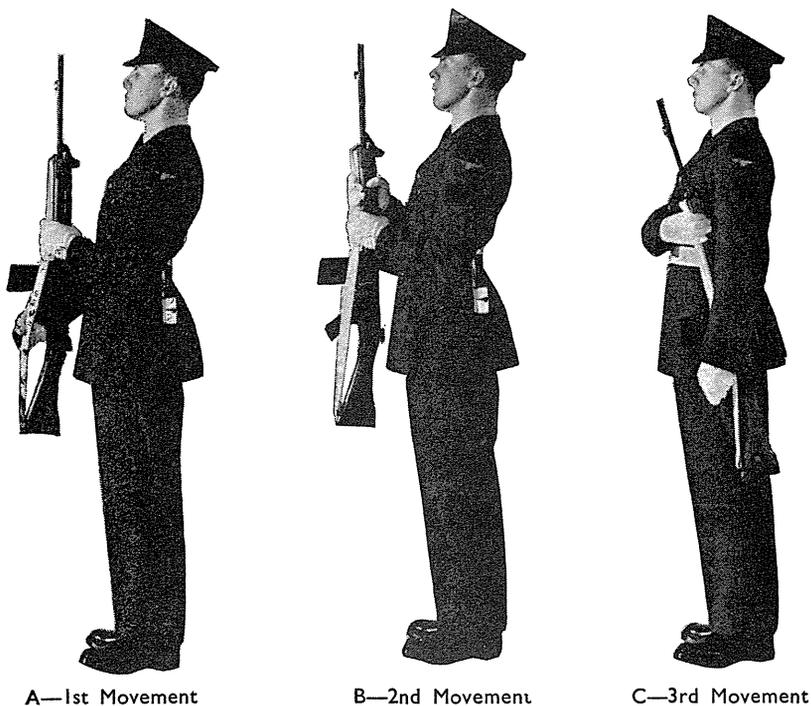
The Change at the Shoulder

39. The Change Arms at the Shoulder is carried out in four movements. On the command

CHANGE

(a) ONE. The rifle is to be forced to a vertical position three inches in front of the centre of the body. At the same time, the bottom of the stock is to be struck and seized with the left hand, fingers to the front. (See Fig. 42 (A).)

Fig. 42. Change Arms at the Shoulder



A—1st Movement

B—2nd Movement

C—3rd Movement

(b) TWO. The right hand is to release the rifle and strike and seize the stock immediately above the left hand. (See Fig. 42 (B).)

(c) THREE. With the right hand, the rifle is to be forced to the position of the Shoulder in front of the left shoulder. At the same time the pistol grip is to be struck and seized with the left hand, back of the hand to the left, fingers and thumb to the right and curled round the grip. (See Fig. 42 (C).)

(d) FOUR. The right hand is to be cut away to the side in the position of Attention.

Note.—The change back to the right side is exactly the reverse procedure.

The Secure from the Shoulder

40. The Secure from the Shoulder is carried out in three movements. On the command

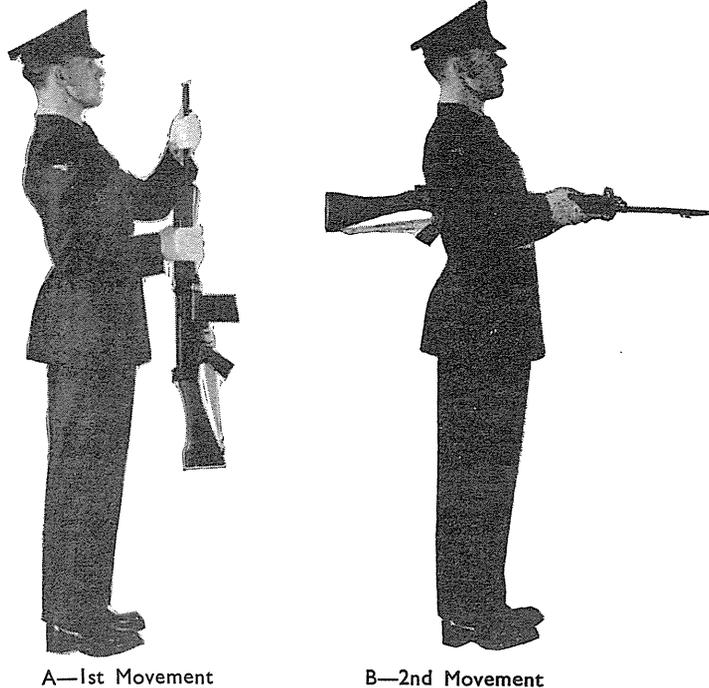
SECURE - ARMS

(a) ONE. The grip is to be retained with the right hand and the left hand brought across the body to strike and seize the barrel below the bayonet lug, the left elbow being kept close to the body.

(b) TWO. The rifle is to be released with the right hand and forced out about six inches in front of the right shoulder with the left hand. The stock is to be struck and seized with the right hand, the rifle being kept vertical. (See Fig. 43 (A).)

(c) THREE. The muzzle is to be swung down to the front with the left hand, so that it is pointing slightly downwards and in the same direction as the left toe, with the trigger guard under the right armpit; the left hand is to release the rifle and cut away to the position of Attention. (See Fig. 43 (B).)

Fig. 43. Secure Arms



A—1st Movement

B—2nd Movement

The Shoulder from the Secure

41. The Shoulder from the Secure is carried out in three movements. On the command

SHOULDER - ARMS

(a) ONE. The left hand is to be brought across the body to strike and seize the barrel below the bayonet lug, the left elbow being kept

close to the body. At the same time, the grip is to be retained with the right hand and the whole of the rifle forced out and into a vertical position about six inches in front of the right shoulder.

(b) TWO. With the left hand the rifle is to be forced backwards and downwards in the position of the Shoulder in front of the right shoulder. At the same time, the pistol grip is to be struck and seized with the right hand, back of the hand to the right, fingers and thumb to the left and curled round the grip.

(c) THREE. The left hand is to be cut to the side in the position of Attention.

Turning About at the Secure

42. When airmen marching at the Secure are ordered to turn about, the rifle is to be brought to the perpendicular in front of the right shoulder as the left foot comes to the ground on the first pace of the turn. On the command

ABOUT - TURN

(a) ONE. As the left foot comes to the ground on the first pace of the turn, the upper arm is to be kept steady at the side and the rifle brought to the perpendicular position in front of the right shoulder, with the magazine to the front. The elbow is to be held close to the side, with the forearm horizontal and the hand in line with the waist belt.

(b) TWO. The rifle is to be brought to the Secure as the right foot goes forward to resume marching.

Note.—When airmen are formed up in close order and carrying arms at the Secure, rifles are to be brought to the Shoulder Arms position before turning into line or to a flank.

The Reverse from the Present

43. Notes.

(1). The rifle is carried in this position only when marching in slow time.

(2). When marching in quick time, the right hand is removed from the rifle and the arms swung. At the same time the rifle is brought to a horizontal position under the armpit by allowing the butt to drop.

The Reverse Arms from the Present is carried out in five movements. On the command

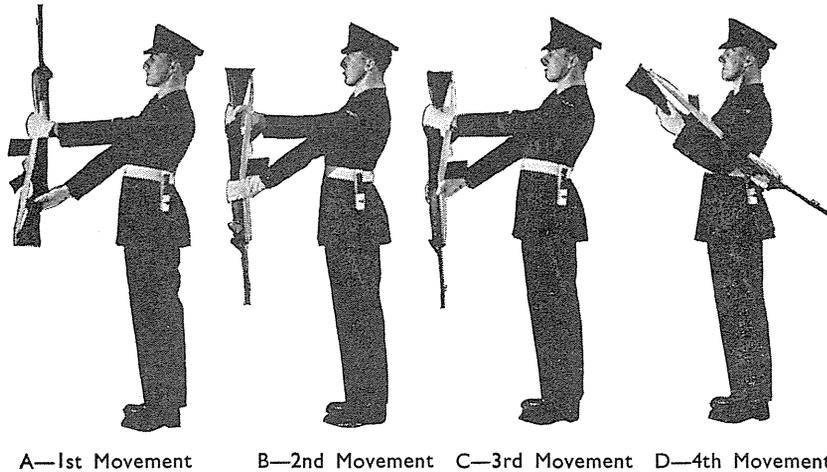
REVERSE - ARMS

(a) ONE. The right foot is to be brought up to the left and the rifle is to be brought smartly to the front to the full extent of the left arm without altering the grip of the hands. At the same time the head is to be turned to the right, except the right-hand file who are to look to their front. The left arm is to be horizontal and the rifle is to be in a perpendicular position in front of the centre of the body. (See Fig. 44 (A).)

(b) TWO. Taking the time from the right-hand man, the butt of the rifle is to be brought towards the body with the right hand in a circular movement; the muzzle is to be turned slowly and continuously over to the front to a count equal to ten paces in slow time until the rifle is held perpendicularly in front of the centre of the body at the full extent of the arms. The right arm is to be horizontal and the muzzle of the rifle is to be pointed towards the ground. The grip of the hands is to be altered during this movement. (See Fig. 44 (B).)

(c) THREE. The small of the butt is to be gripped with the left hand just above the right hand.

Fig. 44. Reverse from the Present



(d) FOUR. The rifle is to be gripped at the point of balance with the right hand. (See Fig. 44 (C).)

(e) FIVE. The rifle is to be given a smart cant to a position under the left armpit, so that the magazine is uppermost and in front of the body. The rifle is to be held lightly near the top of the stock with the right hand behind the body (back of the hand downwards). The right forearm is to be horizontal and in line with the waist belt. At the same time the head is to be turned to the front. The rifle is to be at an angle of 45 degrees with the ground and is to be held into the left side by the left arm. The right forearm is to be horizontal and the magazine is to be slightly in front of the armpit. (See Fig. 44 (D).)

The Change Arms from the Reverse

44. The Change Arms from the Reverse is carried out in three movements. On the command

CHANGE - ARMS

(a) ONE. The right hand is to release the rifle and cut to the side. At the same time, the rifle is to be held at the small of the butt with the

left hand and the muzzle allowed to swing forward so that the rifle is perpendicular. The left hand is to be kept at the level of the breast pocket.

(b) TWO. The rifle is to be thrown across the body and caught at the small of the butt with the right hand level with the breast pocket. At the same time the left hand is to be cut to the side.

(c) THREE. The rifle is to be forced under the right armpit and seized near the foresight with the left hand, arm behind the body, in the position of the Reverse.

Notes.

(1). On the march, the movements are done on successive beats of the left foot and the rules for rifle exercises on the march apply.

(2). The Change Arms in Quick Time is done in a similar way, except that in the final movement the rifle is pushed upwards from the rear by the disengaged arm, which is then cut away and swung.

Rest on Arms Reversed from the Reverse

45. Note.—This movement is only carried out with the rifle under the left arm.

The Rest on Arms Reversed from the Reverse at the left side is carried out in seven movements. On the command

REST ON YOUR ARMS - REVERSED

(a) ONE. The rifle is to be released with the right hand. The hand is to be brought down to the side and the head is to be turned to the right, except the right file who are to continue to look to their front. At the same time the rifle is to be carried to the front with the left hand to a perpendicular position in front of the left shoulder at the full extent of the left arm.

(b) TWO. Taking the time from the right-hand man, the rifle is to be lowered slowly and continuously to a count of five paces in slow time until the muzzle rests on the toes of the left boot.

(c) THREE. The right arm is to be fully extended to the right side in line with the shoulder. The back of the hand is to be uppermost and the fingers extended, the thumb being close to the forefinger.

(d) FOUR. Taking the time from the right-hand man, the right hand is to be brought slowly to the front in a circular motion to a count of five beats in slow time until it is close to the point of the chin. The arm is to be horizontal and a pause equal to two paces in quick time is to be observed, after which the hand is to be lowered slowly to the butt, to a count of five beats in slow time.

(e) FIVE. Airmen are to repeat the third movement with the left hand.

(f) SIX. Airmen are to repeat the fourth movement with the left hand.

(g) SEVEN. The head is to be turned to the front. After observing a pause equal to two paces in quick time, the head is to be bent forward. The elbows are to be brought into the side, and the hollow

of the right foot is to be placed against the heel of the left. (See Fig. 45 (A) and (B).)

The Reverse from Rest on Arms Reversed

46. *Note.*—Before this movement is carried out the party must be called to attention, on which command the head is raised.

The Reverse Arms from Rest on Arms Reversed is carried out in two movements. On the command

REVERSE - ARMS

(a) ONE. The rifle is to be raised about 15 inches from the ground with the right hand and gripped at the small of the butt with the left hand.

(b) TWO. The rifle is to be raised under the left arm with the left hand, and gripped with the right hand behind the body in the Reverse Arms position.

Fig. 45. Rest on Arms Reversed



The Present from Rest on Arms Reversed

47. *Note.*—Before this movement is carried out the party must be called to attention, on which command the head is raised.

The Present Arms from Rest on Arms Reversed is carried out in three movements. On the command

PRESENT - ARMS

(a) ONE. The rifle is to be raised about six inches with the right hand and gripped immediately in front of the magazine with the left hand. The back of the left hand is to be towards the body and the thumb to the left.

(b) TWO. The small of the butt is to be gripped with the thumb and fingers of the right hand, thumb to the left. The back of the hand is to be downwards and to the front.

(c) THREE. The rifle is to be turned over by lowering the butt towards the body and raising the muzzle to the front, assuming the position of the Present.

Rest on Arms Reversed from the Present

48. The Rest on Arms Reversed from the Present is carried out in five movements. On the command

REST ON YOUR ARMS - REVERSED

(a) ONE. The right knee is to be bent and the right foot placed alongside the left. At the same time the rifle is to be raised about six inches, with the right hand under the butt plate, thumb round

the toe of the butt, the first two joints of the fingers grasping the left side of the butt.

(b) TWO. The rifle is to be turned over to the front, muzzle leading, by rotating it through the hand, so that the position of the rifle is reversed with the muzzle pointing towards the ground. The muzzle is to be lowered onto the left boot between the toecap and the lace holes. The left hand is to be moved to the small of the butt, the arms kept slightly bent in front of the body, back of the hand to the rear, thumb on the left of the butt, fingers on the right. The butt will be in the centre of the body and the elbows kept raised.

(c) THREE. The left hand is to be placed on top of the right.

(d) FOUR. The elbows are to be dropped to the sides.

(e) FIVE. The chin is to be lowered onto the breast.

Note.—All these movements are to be carried out with dignity. The third, fourth and fifth movements are not to be hurried.

Rifle Exercises on the March

49. Rifle exercises on the march are used for two main reasons:—

(a) As a variant in the form of drilling trained airmen and, at the same time, speeding up the execution and precision of each individual movement.

(b) As an effective form of drill for drill displays.

50. When exercises are carried out on the march in slow or quick time, each movement is to be made as the left foot is forward and on the ground.

51. When executing the High Port when breaking into Double Time, and the Shoulder or Order from the High Port when breaking into Quick Time from Double Time, the movements are to be executed on successive beats of the left foot.

52. When saluting with the rifle at the Shoulder the executive word of command is to be given as the right heel reaches the ground. The salute is to start on the next beat of the right foot, the hand being cut away to the side on the sixth pace (left foot) and the arm swung forward on the seventh pace (right foot).

53. Sentry Drill. Sentry drill with this rifle is to conform as closely as possible to that laid down for the Lee Enfield rifle in Chapter 16.