

The following are snippets from the .pdf of the Norfolk Militia drill. It addresses the origin of the term "rest," how it used to be done and how they (Windham and Townshend) have amended it to make it easier for the militia.

As it's clear from both the footnotes to the exercise and the illustrations, as there is little difference between the recover and the rest except the quarter turn of the foot, they have eliminated the first movement going to 'order' and make it a 2 movement order straight from the 'rest'. The implication being that the angle of the barrel away from the body was not sufficiently large as to make a separate move when dropping down to the 'order' necessary. Certainly the side view would tend to confirm that.

which they do with great ease in this new manner.

(2) The rest, is the position of a soldier prepared for immediate action ; their being only the motion of cocking to be done, in order to make ready. In the old musket exercise, the musket was then placed on the rest, ready to present and fire from thence ; and the same word of command is still continued, *Rest* your firelock ! though rests are no longer used. This position, has, by universal agreement, been always esteemed an attitude of military compliment ; arising perhaps from the old custom of the soldiers receiving persons of distinction, to whom they would do honour, with irregular salvo's of their muskets, like a Feu de joye, or running fire ; which they also practised at reviews and on all occasions of parade *.

We must observe here, that the army performs this action, in three motions : we have reduced it to two, as we could see no reason why any distinction should be made between a rest and a recover ; nor any use or grace in the turning on the heels a half face to the right, at the third motion : and to those who defend any additional useless motions, by saying that they serve to set off and show the men more to advantage, we answer ; that there are certain parts of the exercise, which are most essential, and of the greatest importance in real service, such as the marching, wheeling, and the firings, that cannot be too much practised ; nor too much assiduity used, to bring the

men to perform them with the greatest quickness and accuracy imaginable ; to do which to perfection, will afford full employment for both officers and soldiers, even of the regulars, let them be ever so diligent, or take ever so much pains ; and therefore every thing that renders the less important parts of the exercise more complicated, and difficult to be performed, must be wrong ; as it takes up so much more of the soldiers time and attention, which may be employed to greater advantage. The army also perform most of their words of command from the position of the rest ; which we think in many instances is going round about ; as for example, in order to club from being shouldered, they must first rest, which is three motions, and then club, which is three more : in the same manner, to shoulder again, they first come to a rest, in three motions, and then shoulder in two : besides, in their way of coming to a rest, the men must be halted ; whereas there is not one of our words of command, except the 2d, 3d, and 4th, but may be performed marching as well as standing.

L
Rest your
Firelock !
2 Motions

- 1 Join your right hand, by seizing the fire- Plate 3-
lock just below the lock, at the same time
turning it with your left hand, so that the
lock may be outwards, or towards the front ;
the piece being almost right up and down,
not stirring it from your shoulder, only
throwing out the left elbow a little.
- 2 Bring the firelock over-against your right Pl. 4. & 5.
breast, turning the barrel inwards ; the cock
about a hand's-breadth above the waist-
belt, the butt opposite to the right thigh,
your left hand just above the feather-spring,
the right hand below the lock, holding the
piece slightly, the fingers outwards behind
the guard, the thumb inwards ; the fire-
lock close to the body, and nearly upright ;
the right elbow thrown a little out, the
knees

I. *Rest your Firelock. 2^d Motion.* Pl. 4.



N.B. *This also shows the position of*.....

<i>Explosⁿ</i>	<i>Motion</i>
5	2
13	2
14	1
15	2
23	—
26	2
30	2
34	2
43	—
47	4

Pl. 5.
I. Rest your Firelock. 2^d Motion.
viewed sideways, faced to the left.



N.B. This also shews the Position of Exp.ⁿ. 19. Mot.ⁿ. 2^d.