



Crown and Empire

Artillery Manual and Accreditation Requirements

These rules are in addition to those stated in the Crown and Empire Rules and Guidelines.

This manual includes minimum safety requirements for the safe use of artillery pieces on the ground and actions of artillery crew. It does not include detailed drill movements for specific unit types or periods. Officers instructing their troops in their specific drill must ensure that their drill does not contravene any of these general rules.

If an officer believes that their drill cannot comply with these rules, they must discuss this with the Crown and Empire Safety Officer in order to reach a satisfactory compromise.

These guidelines are based on muzzle loading pieces. Any unit using a breach loading piece must discuss any required amendments with the Safety Officer.

General Rules

Crews must train together regularly. Training records should be kept by the Gun Captain of all training undertaken. Individuals training with a number of groups are encouraged to keep a record of all training received. Crown and Empire accreditation does not replace the need for these records.

All orders are to be transmitted through the gun captain only.

All artillery crews must satisfy themselves that they are fully conversant with the operation of any cannon they are asked to crew and that they understand the basic commands for safe operation of the piece.

Crews must be fully aware of their individual job function for the loading and firing of the piece.

Gun crews should note of the duties of their other crew members when the loading process is underway & point out any acts that are not in line with the correct & safe loading of the gun.

Paper wrapped charges only may be used. No other materials should be used in the manufacture of cartridges.

The piece must be loaded in accordance with the drill for the period and nationality being represented except where adherence to this drill would become a safety hazard (e.g. loading of ball).

Crew members must know the various signals for other troops and ensure that these signals are always used.

If a problem is spotted by a crew member at any time during the loading and firing process, the crew member must shout CEASE FIRE. All activity is to stop and the Gun Captain informed of the problem.

The piece must be made safe before an artillery unit may engage in any hand to hand combat.

Artillery may not use muskets, swords, pikes or polearms unless specifically accredited to do so. See Infantry manual.

The piece, carriage and limber (if used) must be checked over every time it is to be used or moved for battle or firing displays.

Before the commencement of the battle, the following things will be checked & carried out by the crew as directed by the Gun Captain:

- Barrel is to be checked for any foreign objects that may have been put there & remove them.
- All tools to be checked for serviceability by the crew member who will be using same. (any damage to be reported to the Gun Captain).
- Water bucket to be filled & checked for leaks.
- Sponge to be wetted and checked.(sponge to be damp but not dripping)
- General condition of the gun/limber to be checked by Gun Captain.
- Charges and fuses or slow match (as appropriate) to be positioned in the appropriate box, which must have a secure lid. This box must only be opened when removing charges, fuses or match. One crew member must remain with the box at all times.
- If the gun has a limber this should be attached and all connections and ropes must be inspected for damage. Damaged ropes or couplings should be replaced before using them to move the piece.

Between each shot fired the following actions must be carried out:

1. The vent must be cleared and held closed by a crew member during the loading process. Leather gloves or thumbstall must be worn by the crew member.
2. The barrel must be wormed out to clear any debris
3. The barrel must be sponged out with a damp sponge
4. The cartridge must be placed in the barrel and rammed until it is firmly seated in the breach.
5. When the crew is clear, the vent hole is cleared and the cartridge spiked to open it. A fuse or priming powder is placed in the vent. The crew member then raises his arm to indicate the gun is ready to fire.

The Gun Captain must check that the area is clear before giving the order to fire.

If no further shots are to be fired, steps 1 to 3 must be performed before the piece is deemed safe.

In the event of a misfire

If after a minute from ignition the piece fails to fire, inform any units in the vicinity, re-spike, re-prime and fire if safe to do so.

This may be repeated if the Gun Captain deems it safe to do so.

If the gun refuses to fire, the crew must not approach the front of the barrel until the Gun Captain has deemed it safe to do so (2minutes minimum). They must then signal the problem to other units by crossing the tools over the barrel.

The Gun Captain must supervise the flooding of the barrel with water & the removal of the charge (at all times during this process the vent will be sealed to prevent any air or spark entering the barrel).

Accreditation requirements

In order to be accredited, the member must demonstrate the following:

Membership of Crown and Empire.

Uniform and kit must be up to the standard for the unit and the society

Have knowledge and understanding the safety procedures for the camp site, battlefield and interaction with the public.

That they have licences as required for the member's responsibility within the crew.

Knowledge and understanding of how the artillery piece works

Knowledge and understanding the purpose and use of the tools used with the piece.

Knowledge and understanding the safe use and storage of fuses and cartridges.

Knowledge and understanding of each job on a gun crew.

Knowledge and practical demonstration of safe loading and firing practices for an artillery piece.

Knowledge of safe firing distances and the ability to correctly indicate these distances on the ground.

Knowledge and practical demonstration of the various signals to be given by artillery crews to other participants.

Knowledge and understanding of misfire drill and procedures.

Knowledge and understanding of cleaning the piece and safe stowage of equipment.