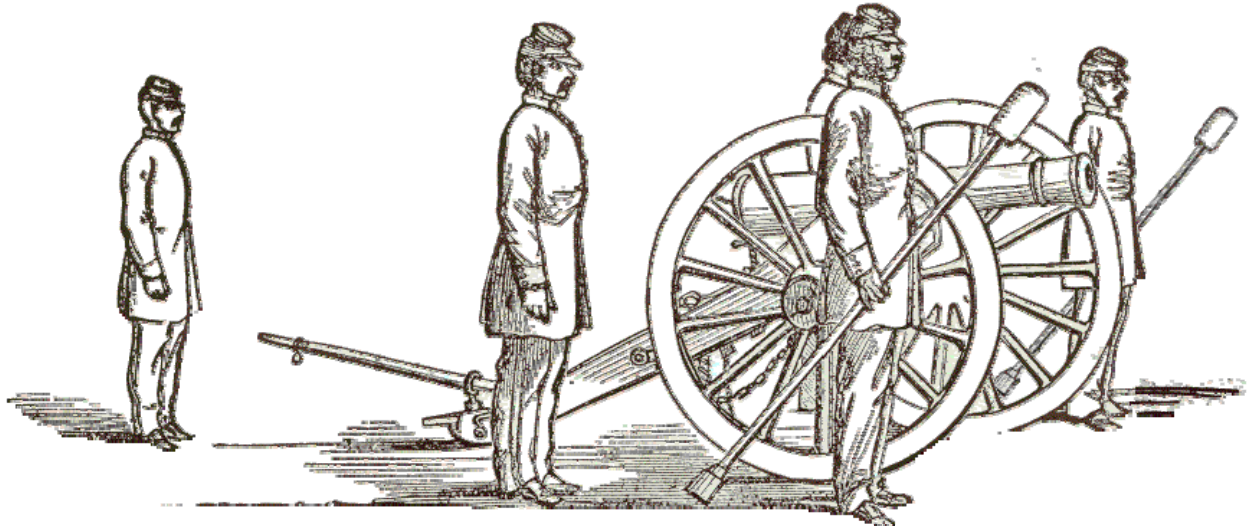


# **Muzzle Loading Artillery Drill Manual**



**The Basic Course of  
Instruction on the Drill,  
Safety, and Operation of  
Muzzle Loading Artillery**

# **Please Read Carefully:**

## **A Special Note about Muzzle Loading Artillery**

**Muzzle Loading Artillery is dangerous. Even with the best safety programs, accidents can occur.**

**The Students of the United States Field Artillery Association (USFAA) Muzzle Loading Artillery School, the Royal School of Artillery of the Royal Hutt River Army, and other Artillery School Students who are using this Drill Manual or who are participating in an Artillery Course of Instruction based on the curriculum outlined in this manual, attend entirely at their own risk. This Drill Manual outlines a Muzzle Loading Artillery Course of Instruction that focuses on safety and accuracy, but it is the responsibility of each Student and instructor to ensure that the safety procedures outlined in this manual are enforced, and that good judgement and common sense are exercised when operating Muzzle Loading Artillery.**

**By using this Drill Manual, you are:**

- Acknowledging that you are aware of the dangers involved with Muzzle Loading Artillery;**
- Agreeing to follow all instructions and procedures given by the Officers and Instructors of the USFAA Muzzle Loading Artillery School or the Royal School of Artillery of the Royal Hutt River Army; and,**
- Agreeing to hold harmless the Officers and Instructors of the USFAA Muzzle Loading Artillery School and the Royal School of Artillery of the Royal Hutt River Army for any accidents that may occur before, during, and after any Artillery School Courses of Instruction that use this Manual or is based on the curriculum outlined in this manual.**

**Artillery Manuals Produced By The**

**Loyal Train of Artillery Chapter  
Of The US Field Artillery Association  
and  
The Royal School Of Artillery  
Of The Royal Hutt River Army**

- Muzzle Loading Artillery Drill Manual – The School of the Piece*
- Muzzle Loading Artillery Primer – The School of the Battery*
- Muzzle Loading Artillery Instructors Manual*
- Muzzle Loading Artillery Testing and Certification Manual*



**United States  
Field Artillery  
Association**

# **Muzzle Loading Artillery Drill Manual**

**The Basic Course of Instruction on the  
Drill, Safety, and Operation of  
Muzzle Loading Artillery**

**Artillery School of the Piece**

**Volume 1**

**LOYAL TRAIN OF ARTILLERY CHAPTER  
OF THE UNITED STATES FIELD ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION**

**AND**

**THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY  
OF THE ROYAL HUTT RIVER ARMY**

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# Credits

This Manual for Muzzle Loading Artillerists was compiled from numerous sources by Lt. Colonel William B. Speir, Jr, Chief of the Royal Artillery of the Royal Hutt River Army and Commander of the Royal School of Artillery. It is an attempt to present as much information as possible in one source document for both instructors and students of Artillery Drills. It is not intended, however, to provide the information necessary for **Live Fire drills**. That will be included in a later edition. For specific information on care of the Artillery piece (cannon barrel and carriage) and its implements, please consult the cannon manufacturer's specifications and instructions.

Sources used for this Manual for Muzzle Loading Artillerists, include:

- Student Manual, The Major John Pelham Memorial School of Muzzle Loading Artillery, 2001;
- Hanson's Instructions for Field Artillery, 1860;
- Andrew's Mounted Artillery Drill, 1863;
- Gibbon's Artillerist's Manual, 1863;
- Heubner's Civil War Artillery Manual, 1962;
- Louisiana Division of Reenactors Artillery Battalion School of the Piece, 1993;
- Loyal Train of Artillery Chapter of the United States Field Artillery Association School of the Piece; and,
- Other Print and Internet Sources.

Special credit goes to Kieran McMullen and Arthur Street of the United States Field Artillery Association Artillery School for their valuable edits, materials, and suggestions which have been incorporated into this manual.

# Muzzle Loading Artillery Drill Manual

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# Section One

## The Artillery School

This Artillery School is dedicated to teaching the drill, safety procedures, commands, equipment, and range management for muzzle loading artillery.

As instructors of this Artillery School, we are dedicated to ensuring the accuracy and safety of muzzle loading artillery.

This Artillery School teaches a Basic Course (The School of the Piece), an Advanced Course (The School of the Battery), as well as the Instructors Certification course.

This Artillery Manual was commissioned to compile the best of various sources into a single document for the study of Muzzle Loading Artillery.

## Overview of the Courses taught by The Artillery School

### The Basic Course of Instruction

The Basic Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery is also referred to as The School of the Piece. This course is designed to teach the procedures for each position of a cannon crew. Students are taught: nomenclature and care of artillery pieces and equipment; drills for loading, firing, and servicing the piece; procedures for clearing misfires; procedures for rolling, preparing, and storing charges; and, safety procedures for operating the piece and maintaining a safe firing range.

### The Advanced Course of Instruction

The Advanced Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery is also referred to as The School of the Battery. This course is designed for Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers who will command sections and batteries. This course includes both the content of the Basic Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery, as well as additional instruction on commands, procedures, and the strategies for deploying artillery during re-enactments and tacticals.

### The Instructors Certification Course of Instruction

The Instructors Certification Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery has several components and is only open to those serious students of antique artillery who have the desire and capacity to teach the various programs offered by this School. The course has two main components.

The first component includes both the content of the Basic Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery, and the Advanced Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery. In addition, students are taught the

proper way to give instructions to ensure that all procedures are being followed correctly. Special emphasis is given on safety, as well as people skills required to effectively share information and preserve the reputation and integrity of the School.

The second component is a probationary period. Once the student has completed the first component, they will act as Assistant Instructors in subsequent offerings of the Basic Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery, and the Advanced Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery. The Certified Instructors of the School will evaluate the Assistant Instructor's performance and provide guidance in ways to improve. The Assistant Instructors will be evaluated for *no less than* two offerings of *both* the Basic Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery, and the Advanced Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery. Once the Certified Instructors are satisfied that the Assistant Instructor has achieved the requirements necessary to become a fully Certified Instructor, and that, as a Certified Instructor, the Assistant Instructor will preserve the reputation and integrity of the School, the School Commander will grant the rank of Certified Instructor to the Assistant Instructor. The Certified Instructors evaluating the Assistant Instructor's performance must be in agreement that the Assistant Instructor is ready for Certification, and Certification will not be granted until then *regardless of the number of Courses of Instruction the Assistant Instructor has helped teach*. There is no exception to this rule.

Not everyone attending the Certified Instructors Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery will receive Certification. This is not a sign of failure, but, rather, a sign of how seriously the School takes its responsibilities for teaching and preserving the safety of Muzzle Loading Artillery.

This manual is the procedure to be used for administering written and observed testing for the Basic Course of Instruction, the Advanced Course of Instruction, and the Instructors Certification Course of Instruction on the Drill, Safety, and Operation of Muzzle Loading Artillery. This is a living document, and will be updated, modified, and expanded as the situation dictates.