

# Proctor's 4<sup>th</sup> Continental Artillery Manual

## Commands and Actions

### Commands

By Gun Commander

### Actions

#### **Tend the vent**

The Second Gunner steps forward and covers the vent with his left thumb and responds **SAFE**. He maintains this position until the command pick and prime is given. At the response of safe by the Second Gunner the First Matross and Second Matross step forward and turn inward to service the piece.

#### **Search**

The First Matross searches the piece.

#### **Sponge**

The Second Matross sponges the piece with a damp sponge.

#### **Search**

Repeat of search above. After completing the search the First Matross steps back to his original position to receive the cartridge from the Second Bombardier.

#### **Sponge**

Repeat of sponge above.

#### **Handle cartridge**

The First Bombardier removes a cartridge from the ammunition box and places it in a secure pouch carried by the Second Bombardier.

#### **Advance cartridge**

The Second Bombardier advances to the front of the piece on the left side where he hands the cartridge to the First Matross. The First Matross inspects the cartridge and either informs the Second Bombardier that it is fine or returns it to him if defective. After which the Second Bombardier returns to his original position. At the command to advance the cartridge the First Gunner places the linstock below the trails of the carriage and maintains this position until the Second Gunner has called out primed and ready.

#### **Load**

The First Matross places the cartridge into the muzzle of the piece.

#### **Ram down cartridge**

The Second Matross rams down the cartridge. After which he returns to his original position and calls out **READY TO PRIME**.

#### **Pick and prime**

The Second Gunner picks the cartridge and then primes the piece and calls out **PRIMED AND READY**. He then covers the vent. At the call of primed and ready the First Gunner raises the linstock above his head to show that the piece is now ready to fire.

#### **Make ready**

The Second Gunner uncovers the vent and steps clear of the piece.

#### **Give**

The First Gunner brings the linstock down and prepares to fire the piece.

#### **Fire**

The First Gunner fires the piece.

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## Positions and Duties

**Gun Commander** - This man has overall command of the gun crew. He is generally responsible for giving all commands and assuring that crewmembers execute their duties correctly and safely. He does not take part in any of the loading or firing procedures except elevating the barrel and directing a shift of the trail to point the piece. It is the commander's duty to assure that a period of at least two minutes lapse before reloading. His position is designated as "I".

**First Matross** - Searches and loads the piece. His position is designated as "A".

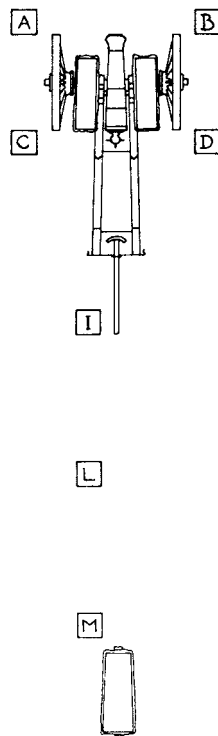
**Second Matross** - Sponges and rams the piece. His position is designated as "B".

**First Gunner** - Tends the linstock and fires the piece. His position is designated as "C". At the command to advance the cartridge the First Gunner places the linstock below the trails of the carriage until the Second Gunner has called out that the piece is primed and ready. At the call of primed and ready the First Gunner raises the linstock above his head to show that the piece is now ready to fire.

**Second Gunner** - Tends the vent and picks and primes the piece. His position is designated as "D". During the sponging and loading he is to cover the vent with his left thumb. After priming the piece he covers the vent until the command "Make Ready" is given, whereupon he uncovers the vent and steps clear of the piece.

**First Bombardier** - Tends the ammunition box and places the cannon charge in a secure pouch of the Second Bombardier. His position is designated as "M".

**Second Bombardier** - Advances the charge to the front of the piece and hands it to the First Matross. His position is designated as "L". If there is no Second Bombardier available, the First Bombardier assumes the responsibility for both operations.



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