

ALABAMA DIVISION SAFETY RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR INFANTRY

I. DRILL

- A. The learning of drill is essential for safety and authenticity on and off the field. All members should be regularly drilled in the School of the Soldier, School of the Company, and School of the Battalion according to Hardee's Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics, 1855.
- B. For safety reasons, emphasis should be placed on loading in nine times, the position of the feet, and in handling the piece during firing. This is especially critical for the men in the rear rank.
- C. Training in Hardee's Skirmishers drill and McClellan's Manual of Bayonet Exercise is to be encouraged.
- D. Interpretations of the instructions in the period manuals shall be approved by the Division Staff.

II. WEAPONRY

- A. A soldier under the age of 18 years shall have the written permission of a parent or guardian to carry firearms.
- B. Only military issue two or three band long arms that were issued and used in large quantities will be carried on the field. These weapons shall be in good working order with a functioning half-cock.
- C. At designated Alabama Division events, ramrods will be carried on the field but never drawn unless ordered by the Commanding Officer. NCOs are responsible for insuring that the troops do not draw the rammer. At non-Divisional events, rules established concerning rammers by the host unit will be adhered to.
- D. Fouled pieces will be given to a file closer who will be allowed to pull his rammer, from the file closer position, in order to clear the piece.
- E. Handguns will only be carried by Officers and NCOs as was appropriate during the period.
- F. Swords will only be carried by Officers and NCOs as was appropriate during the period.
- G. Bayonets should be carried by all enlisted men and should be the appropriate type for the weapon. The bayonet should fit the piece properly and securely. Bayonets will only be fixed by order of a Commanding Officer. At other times they shall be secured in a proper scabbard. The scabbard must have a metallic tip to be allowed on the field.
- H. Knives carried will be of period and secured in a period sheath. At no time will knives be drawn on the field.

III. CARTRIDGES

- A. Powder will only be carried in the form of properly rolled cartridges. A properly rolled cartridge is defined as one rolled in soft type paper with no more than 80 grains of if or fir black powder. A standard charge of 60 to 65 grains is considered optimum. Penny wrappers, heavy bond paper, plastics, staples, or tape will not be used for rolled cartridges.
- B. Members should arrive at events with at least 80 rolled cartridges. Cartridges will not be rolled within 20 yards of camp.
- C. Percussion caps and cartridges will only be carried in authentic cap pouches and cartridge boxes.
- D. Under no circumstances will projectiles of any kind be carried to events. Violators will be ordered off the premises for the duration of the event.

IV. SAFETY INSPECTIONS

- A. NCOs will insure that their men clean their pieces the evening after or the morning before taking the field.
- B. Safety inspections are mandatory for all troops before taking the field. Unit commanders, Officers, or NCOs will inspect troops for safety and authenticity; or participate in the event-designated safety inspection.
- C. Upon inspection, any weapon that is found unsafe will be removed from the field until repaired and reinspected by the proper official. At a minimum, a safe piece will have a functioning half-cock and a hammer screw securing the hammer to the lock plate.
- D. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed at least six hours before the scheduled scenario. Offenders will be escorted off the field.

V. ENGAGEMENTS

- A. All troops will remain under the control of properly designated Officers while under arms.
- B. Weapons may be charged with cartridge but not primed if adverse terrain must be traversed prior to engagement, particularly when troops are in close order.
- C. Weapons will never be aimed at an opponent's face at any distance.
- D. When within 15 yards of an opponent or animal, weapons will be aimed to one side of or away from the object, but never directly at the object. Weapons shall never be discharged within 20 yards of powder storage or artillery chests.
- E. Unscripted hand-to-hand fighting will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Only scripted, host unit approved hand fighting will be allowed.

VI. WOMEN IN THE RANKS

Inasmuch as Victorian women were precluded from serving as soldiers during the War Between the States, a soldier who is discovered, by requested admission, to be a female shall be discharged from service and excluded from military duties on and off the field by the respective battalion commander as was the practice during the War.