

**THE SOLDIER'S MANUAL
OF RIFLE FIRING, AT
VARIOUS DISTANCES**

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The Soldier's Manual of Rifle Firing, at Various Distances by Thomas James Thackeray

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THACKERAY'S STADIUM.



[See Page 12.]

THE
SOLDIER'S MANUAL
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BY
CAPTAIN THACKERAY,

(Retired List.)

SECOND SOMERSET MILITIA,

AUTHOR OF "THREE LECTURES ON THE PRACTICE OF RIFLE FIRING," "THE MILITARY ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF FRANCE," ETC. ETC.

SECOND EDITION,
CAREFULLY REVISED, AND CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED.

LONDON:
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, LONGMANS, & ROBERTS.
1858.

231. c. 136. ⁴

TO THE BRITISH ARMY

ERRATA.

Page 32, Section 2, 4th line, for "(A. fig. VI.)," read (See fig. II.)

„ 35, 1st line, for "fig. VI.," read fig. VIII.

PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

HAVING, on the calling out the Militia in 1853, given some lectures on the principles and practice of musketry, I was requested, with a view to their being rendered more generally useful, to publish them.

They were given to the public in an extended form as "THE SOLDIER'S MANUAL OF RIFLE FIRING."

This work being out of print, and many applications having been since made for it, I have been induced to prepare a Second Edition; which has been carefully revised and considerably enlarged.

The added portions relate more especially to theoretical points; a thorough knowledge of which has appeared to be of much importance; but in this respect they are limited to such as seemed to be strictly necessary, the Enfield Rifle being provided with mechanical means of adaptation to various distances of point-blank range of the graduated sight.

In this work the Enfield Rifle being placed in the hands of the soldier, he is taught its mechanism, and use. This

has been endeavoured to be done in the most plain and practical manner; in such popular language, moreover, as will, it is hoped, be easily, and generally, intelligible.

A series of Lessons on the subjects treated in the work, in the shape of questions, is subjoined; which, if studied with the corresponding answers by the soldier, will probably very much lighten the labours of the Instructor.

It will be obvious that this is not intended as a scientific work, but one of practical utility; containing such information as will materially assist the soldier in becoming efficient in the use of his rifle; being at the same time an effectual aid to the Instructor.

T. J. T.

JUNIOR UNITED SERVICE CLUB,
JUNE, 1858.

INTRODUCTION

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

BEFORE entering more particularly upon the subject of this treatise, it may not be without interest to give some brief history of the various inventions of portable arms, for the projection of offensive missiles, which have at length produced the Rifle, in its present comparatively perfect state.

Arms of projection occupied but a secondary place in ancient warfare. The sling, and some others for the projection of stones, the bow and cross-bow for the projection of arrows, were among the rude weapons of times preceding the 14th century.

The arquebus, a later invention, supplied a transition, as it were, between these, and the more modern arms in which projectile force is derived from gunpowder. This implement was formed of a tube, from which leaden balls were thrown by means of a cord suddenly released from a powerful spring.

The invention of powder occasioned a complete revolution, not only in the art of war, but in warlike weapons.

The first portable fire-arms were made in the 14th century; the ancient arquebus supplied the primitive idea of these arms. The tube or barrel from which the