

## **5.0 School of the Piece**

### **5.1 Worming the Tube**

No 2 man shall be in charge of this action. Worming or clearing the tube should be done prior to every battle. No 3 man shall loudly say vent clear prior to worming. No 2 man shall worm after the vent is cleared and stalled.

### **5.2 Advancing the Round**

No 6 and/or No 7 man is in charge of this position. He will be careful not to raise the lid unnecessarily. The lid shall be kept closed as much as possible. The ammunition pouch or haversack should be hung from the left shoulder to the right side of hip. At the command "load", he removes a round from the limber chest placing it in his haversack, advances it to the piece, stopping at the gunner or No 4 man for inspection of the fuse before delivering it to the No 2 man. He immediately returns to the limber chest.

### **5.3 Placing the Round in the Tube**

No 2 man is in charge of this action. After receiving the round from the ordinance pouch advanced by No 6, he then orientates it correctly for loading. Caution should be taken if a buffer is in front of the powder to ensure proper orientation of the round. Staying behind the muzzle at all times, he then inserts round in to the face of the muzzle, ensuring that no part of the round is exposed. He then picks up worm, relocates from the inside of the wheel to the outside of the hub while remaining behind the muzzle at all times. His stance just prior to and during discharging of the gun should be with his right hand covering his right ear while his head is slightly turned toward the muzzle of the gun to monitor proper discharge of the round.

### **5.4 Seating the Round in the Tube**

No 1 man is in charge of this action. He steps from outside the hub to inside the wheel. Then he shall grasp the rammer with his right hand palm facing up and thumb pointing away from the muzzle of the gun. He shall seat the round with only one (no double tamping allowed) quick continuous thrust of the rammer, following through with his hand going under the muzzle of the gun, after a couple of seconds he shall retrieve the rammer with palm facing up and thumb pointing away from the muzzle of the gun. He then relocates with rammer in his right hand from the inside the wheel to outside of the hub. His stance just prior to and during discharging of the gun should be with his left hand over his left ear while his head is slightly turned toward the muzzle of the gun to monitor proper discharge of the round. The rammer should be placed on his right toe.

### 5.5 Pricking of the Round

No 3 man is in charge of this action. He stands on the right side of the piece in line with the knob of the cascable covering No 1 man. At the command to "load" he steps to the left inserts and removes vent brush or prick from the vent prior to worm or sponge being inserted. He wipes the vent field with the thumbstall or glove. He then stalls the vent by covering it with the thumbstall or glove, keeping his elbow raised, his fingers on the left side of the piece, so as to allow the gunner to aim over his thumb. His right hand is on the tube pouch. After the piece is charged, the rammer removed from the bore by No 1 man and the command ready is given he then pricks the round with one stroke of his left hand, palm facing up and the left arm fully extended. At no time shall he insert his finger into the eye of the prick. After No 4 man has inserted the primer No 3 man places his prick on the lanyard cord and keeps eye contact with No 4 man as he steps outside the wheel. Once No 4 gives him a signal he steps to his right clearing the wheel.

### 5.6 Firing of the Round

No 4 man is in charge of this position. He is on the left side of the piece standing in line with the cascable covering No 2 man. At the command to "load", No 4 man inserts the lanyard hook into the ring of the primer and stands fast. At the command "ready", he steps in with the right foot, drops the tube in the vent, takes the lanyard in his right hand, moves to the rear so far as to keep the lanyard slack, but capable of being stretched, without altering his position, which should be clear of the wheel, left foot broken to the left and rear. While moving outside the wheel, he shall keep eye contact with No 3, giving him a signal when he is ready so No 3 can step outside the wheel. After ensuring that No 3 is outside the wheel, No 4 turns his head slightly to left while continuing to monitor the muzzle of the gun for proper discharge of the round. He then raises his left hand to notify the commander that the piece is ready to be discharged. On the command to "fire", he pulls the lanyard briskly and firmly, passing the hand, in a downward direction to the rear, so as to keep the lanyard hook from flying back in the direction of his face. After the piece discharges, he returns to the position of his post. There must be a 50 yard safe zone between the piece and the men on the field.

### 5.7 Stalling and Clearing of the Vent

No 3 man shall be in charge of this action. A prick or vent brush is acceptable to use when clearing the vent. After clearing the vent, he covers the vent with a thumbstall or glove. He then calls out loudly, vent clear, to inform the crew that the piece is ready to be serviced. Holding this position until the order prick and prime or clean and secure is given.

### 5.8 Sponging of the Tube

No 1 man shall be in charge of this action. Wet sponge the tube rotating the sponge 360 degrees at the breech end of the tube, if a second sponge if available it shall be dry and used for the second sponging of the tube. If a second sponge is not available the wet sponge shall be used again rotating the sponge in the opposite direction for 360 degrees at the breech end of the tube. Sponges shall be dipped no more than half way into the water bucket. If excess water is present on the sponge, No 1 shall spin the rammer in order to remove the excess water in a safe distance from other crew members. For safety reasons both the sponge and rammer ends shall never be in contact with the ground.