







## RIFLEMAN PRESENTING

*Published by E. Baker Gun maker N° 23 Allie Street Goodmans fields, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 1803.*

N° 1.

TWENTY TWO YEARS

*PRACTICE*

AND

OBSERVATIONS

WITH

*RIFLE GUNS.*

BY

*EZEK<sup>L</sup>. BAKER,*

GUN-MAKER,

LONDON

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## BAKER'S PRACTICE, &c.

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 ONE load of powder at all distances should be attended to, the rifle should be held firm in hand in all positions in presenting to fire: lying on the belly it will be found difficult for the left hand to grasp the stock forwards, in that case the sling or belt should be pulled firmly back to keep the rifle steady while firing, as appears in figures presenting, No. 2 and 3; to fire off hand without a rest, the right foot should be behind the left about 16 inches, the left knee up right and not bent, the right elbow down towards the body, the butt of the rifle in the hollow of the shoulder, the body easily bent forwards, so that the right eye comes over the great toe of the left foot, as figure presenting, No. 1. If the body is more bent, the man will not stand so easy nor yet so steady; the left hand when presenting to be forwards on the swell of the stock, the sling under the elbow; that will make it firm and steady.

In presenting to fire or taking aim, both eyes open is best, the cheek should be pressed on

the stock very hard at all times or the man will deceive himself, for his eye should be as a fixture on the stock every time he takes aim; in taking aim lay the muzzle of the rifle to the lowest part of the object he means to strike, then bring it up gradually to the part he means to take his aim at; in bringing up the rifle, the fore-finger to be kept light on the trigger; when up to the place intended, he draws the front sight into the notch of the back sight with his eye as line drawn, figure No. 4. He holds his breath, and pulls gradually without any snatching, as that will alter the direction of the rifle: in taking aim sometimes he may hold his breath so long as will cause a trembling, in that case the rifle should be taken down, take breath and aim again; it is a more certain way to bring the muzzle of the rifle up than down where the object can be obtained; after the trigger is pulled, keep the rifle firm in shoulder till the ball strikes the target at 100 yards, this will be known by hearing the ball strike or hit, as that will prevent any starting or throwing back the head, as is often the case in firing. A rifleman should practice to pull off the trigger, with a wood driver in the cock till he can fire off his piece without starting or shaking the muzzle of his rifle; this is a part that every rifleman should be well acquainted with, as it will make him have more command of his rifle.

A rifleman to judge of his distance, should be in the habit of stepping his ground, from

one to 300 paces, or any other distance that may be thought proper, and let him fire at any object at the distance he steps to; by this continual practice he will learn to measure the distance with his eye to a tolerable certainty at any time, this he should practice in different places and in all sorts of weather; in windy weather it is necessary a rifleman should practice, that will instruct him what allowance to make from his object to the right or left, as the wind has great power of the ball at long ranges.

A rifleman should never use himself to more than one rifle until he is a compleat master of it; then he may use any for the information of others. In loading with a ball, be careful that the ball is in the middle of the patch of leather or greased rag provided for that purpose before it is rammed down the barrel, if it is more on one side than the other it will have an inclination to throw the ball from the straight line. A ball forced down too hard or yet too easy, I never found to go so true as when properly fitted; be careful the ball is rammed home to the powder, and with as little bruising the ball as possible; every rifleman should mark his rammer at the muzzle end of barrel when loaded, that will show him when the ball is down close on the powder; at all times care should be taken that the hammer is shut down upon the pan before the ball is rammed down, or the air the ball drives before it will blow all the powder out of the touch-hole; if by mistake that should happen,

the ball must be drawn out with a screw turned into the end of the rammer and provided for that purpose; under the head of the rammer is a small hole made to put in a small lever, which makes the rammer similar to a carpenter's gimblet, and forms a purchase to screw into the ball, and by that means draws the ball out of the barrel; after firing a few rounds, it will be found difficult to draw the ball out; to remedy this I have found the following method to have the desired effect. Pour a little water down the barrel, that will loosen the filth, and the ball will be drawn with ease; it may happen that water at such time cannot be got, if the man can make urine and apply it in the same way it will have the same effect; after the ball is drawn, it will stick fast on the screw, as the fingers cannot unscrew it, then lay the ball on a stone or hard ground, and strike it with the butt end of the rifle to flatten it, which will be taken off with ease; the barrel should be wiped dry before loaded again. Rifles throwing to the right or left sometimes is owing to the trigger pulling too hard, and at other times owing to the man throwing his head too far over the centre of the stock, or not to the centre will cause a cross sight, in that he will be deceived, for this reason to have both eyes open is best in taking aim: if the rifle is found to throw to the right, the back sight should be drove to the left and the front sight to the right, the sights are left loose for that purpose, if it throws to the left move the sights contrary as above,



till the man who uses it, finds it right. I have no opinion of the folding elevating sights by reason the sight for the greatest range may be up, when a shot at a shorter distance may offer, in that case the man not perceiving it, would be much deceived at his intended object; in trying off guns I have been deceived by the folding sights, for which reason, I have found one sight most certain to be depended upon at all distances, for if a man cannot measure his distance with his eye he cannot do it with all the folding elevating sights that can be made. One of the principal things in shooting is for a man to measure his distance before he shoots, and if he cannot do it, all the sights that can be added will not make him a good shot; this is only to be obtained by practice. A rifleman should learn the elevation of the sights of his rifle at point blank, from that he will elevate or depress according to the distance he is from the object; the sights on the king's rifles are intended for 200 yards point blank.

A rifleman should not be in too great a hurry in loading and firing; I have found one shot in one minute as much as I could fire to keep myself steady. In ramming down the ball the air will sometimes force the powder into the touch-hole very hard, which will occasion the rifle to hang fire or flash in the pan, and not fire the powder in the barrel, this I have frequently experienced; to remedy this is to put a picker made for that purpose into the touch-hole; whilst loading

shut down the hammer on the picker or the air will blow it out; when loaded, take out the picker, prime, and with the picker force a little powder into the touch-hole, be careful not to prime too full, as it will prevent the hammer going down, and occasion the prime to be lost or the damp to get to the priming, that will make the rifle hang or misfire, a pin or small feather will answer to stop the touch-hole occasionally; this mode of loading will do in practice, but in action I have my doubts, as they will be apt to loose the picker; in lieu of a picker or feather after loaded, prick the touch-hole, that will loosen the powder which is forced hard in loading, in that case prime first.

A rifleman should be careful not to have his lock at full cock whilst loading, as from the pressure of forcing down the ball it might go off, which might be attended with bad consequences.

A rifle barrel should be always kept brown, as it will prevent the glare of the sun obstructing the eye as is the case on all bright barrels. I have here added four different positions the most easy and certain way which I could find to fire in, as figures No. 1, 2, 3, 4, and two men targets that I have fired at, and a table of the weight and diameter of lead balls, from one to fifty to the pound. Charge of good powder I have found to be nearly equal to one third the weight of the ball, priming included.

**FINIS**

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# RIFLEMAN PRESENTING

Published by E. Baker Gun maker, No. 23, Abchurch Lane, London, Sept. 12, 1808.





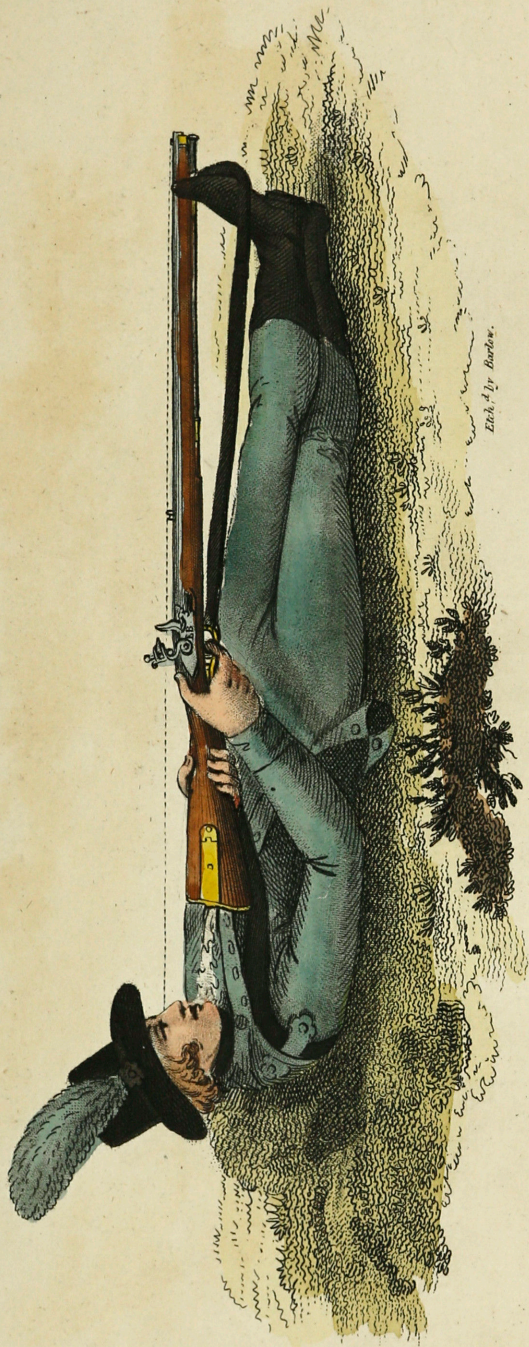
Ench. 2<sup>d</sup> by R. B. W.

# RIFLEMAN PRESENTING

Published by E. Baker & Co. under No. 23. 241c. Street & various fields, Sept. 7. 1849.

No. 3.





## RIFLEMAN PRESENTING

Published by E. Huber Gunmaker No 23 Alie Street Goodmansfields, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 1865.

Nº 4.



*24 Shot at 200 Yards.*



*Rifle Made and Shot by Ezekiel Baker.*

*Published by E. Baker Gunmaker N<sup>o</sup> 23, Abchurch Lane, London, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 1808.*



*34 Shot at 100 Yards.*



*Rifle Made and Shot by Ezekiel Baker.*

*Published by E. Baker Gun-maker N° 23, Abchurch Lane, London, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 1803.*



Weight of Lead Balls from  
One to Fifty to the Pound.  
16 Ounces a Pound, 16 Drains an  
Ounce, 28 Grains a Dram.

By Ezekiel Baker, Little Alie Street, Goodman's Fields  
DIAMETERS.

Numb. of Balls	Ounces	Drains	Grains	Numb.	Inch.	8	10	16	20	28	32	40	50	64	80	100	150
1	16			1	1	6		1									
2	8			2	1	2		1			1						
3	5	5	$9\frac{1}{3}$	3	1	1										1	
4	4			4	1			1									
5	3	3	$5\frac{2}{5}$	5		7		1							1		
6	2	10	$18\frac{2}{3}$	6		7						1					
7	2	4	16	7		7										1	
8	2			8		6		1					1				
9	1	12	$12\frac{4}{9}$	9		6									1		1
10	1	9	$16\frac{4}{5}$	10		6										1	1
11	1	7	$7\frac{1}{11}$	11		6											1
12	1	5	$9\frac{1}{5}$	12		5		1						1			
13	1	3	$22\frac{6}{13}$	13		5		1							1		
14	1	2	8	14		5		1									1
15	1	1	$1\frac{13}{16}$	15		5				1							1
16	1			16		5					1						1
17		15	$1\frac{11}{17}$	17		5						1					
18		14	$6\frac{2}{9}$	18		5							1				
19		13	$13\frac{5}{19}$	19		5											
20		12	$22\frac{2}{5}$	20		4	1									1	
21		12	$5\frac{7}{21}$	21		4	1										1
22		11	$17\frac{9}{11}$	22		4		1							1		
23		11	$3\frac{16}{23}$	23		4		1								1	1
24		10	$18\frac{2}{5}$	24		4		1					1				
25		10	$6\frac{18}{25}$	25		4		1								1	
26		9	$23\frac{9}{13}$	26		4		1									
27		9	$13\frac{13}{27}$	27		4			1								1
28		9	4	28		4			1								
29		8	$23\frac{5}{19}$	29		4							2				
30		8	$14\frac{11}{15}$	30		4				1							
31		8	$7\frac{7}{31}$	31		4					1						
32		8		32		4							1				
33		7	$21\frac{7}{33}$	33		4									1		1
34		7	$14\frac{11}{17}$	34		4										1	1
35		7	$8\frac{28}{35}$	35		4										1	
36		7	$3\frac{1}{9}$	36		4											1
37		6	$25\frac{22}{37}$	37		4											
38		6	$20\frac{12}{19}$	38		3		1			1		1				1
39		6	$15\frac{31}{39}$	39		3		1			1		1			1	
40		6	$11\frac{1}{5}$	40		3		1			1		1		1		
41		6	$6\frac{24}{41}$	41		3		1			1		1				1
42		6	$2\frac{4}{21}$	42		3		1			1				1		
43		5	$26\frac{29}{43}$	43		3		1			1					1	
44		5	$22\frac{12}{11}$	44		3		1			1						1
45		5	$19\frac{13}{45}$	45		3		1			1						1x
46		5	$15\frac{19}{23}$	46		3		1			1						
47		5	$12\frac{24}{47}$	47		3		1					1				
48		5	$9\frac{1}{3}$	48		3		1						1			1
49		5	$6\frac{14}{49}$	49		3		1						1			
50		5	$3\frac{9}{16}$	50		3		1							1		1