

Ordnance Office

Washington, June 8<sup>th</sup> 1861.

Lt. Col. E. D. Townsend

Adj. Genl. U. S. Army.

Sir;

From the frequent requisitions for percussion caps, in large quantities, I am convinced that there is an unnecessary consumption of these articles by the Troops, and I have been informed that it is the practice to use them on drills, even without blank cartridges. Unless this is stopped, it will be impossible to make, or otherwise obtain, percussion caps sufficient to meet the requisitions for them. I, therefore, respectfully suggest that a General Order be issued, prohibiting the use of percussion caps, except when firing with cartridges; and that in drilling at the shoulder of arms, either a beaver cap be used to protect the cone, or that the man be instructed not to pull the



trigger with sufficient force to bring the hammer down upon it.

Respectfully

J. W. Ripley

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Lt. Col. Ord.

James W. Ripley

Brig. Maj. Gen. USA