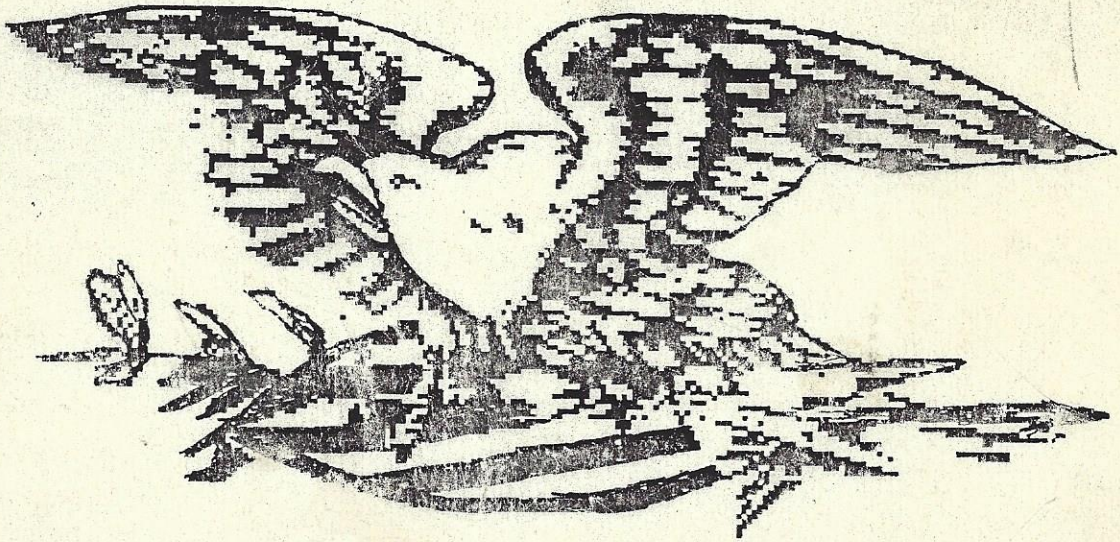


R. F. TANSI

# The United States Volunteers



## Guide for Battalion Maneuver

## GUIDE FOR BATTALION MANEUVER UNITED STATES VOLUNTEERS

### INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 1996 several of the Officers and NCO's of the USV made a request of the commander that he publish some direction as to his favorite maneuvers. This guide is a the direct result of that request.

It is not a replacement for research or use of the proper Drill Manuals of the period. It is a selection of maneuvers most likely to be used in reenacting for drill and/or battle demonstration, parade and pass in review.

The guide is designed for the officers and non-commissioned officers, in the hopes that they can use it for quick reference at events. A basic knowledge of the School of the Soldier and School of the Company is assumed. **It, in no way, is a replacement for Casey's, Hardee's or the Revised Regulations for the Army of the United States.** In fact, I have reference paragraphs and page from these manuals throughout the guide.

Since training the individual soldier and company is the responsibility of each member unit of the USV. We have not delt with the School of the Soldier or School of the Company in this guide.

We have made sure that the maneuvers within can be accomplished without changing company manuals. In other words, if you've trained with Hardee's or with Casey's at the company level. This guide provides the commands for battalion maneuvers that require the same company level training from both manuals.

The maneuvers and commands in this manual are correct for the period. The Revised Regulations used are 1861 (not 63), Casey's School of the Battalion and Hardee's School of the Battalion. Where Casey's differs from Hardee's Casey's method is shown.

We do not publish this with the thought that it is the ONLY way to do it! We do publish it knowing that it is one of the correct ways of performing these maneuvers and while operating as a USV Battalion or Brigade it is how we are going to drill.

I hope this will be of assistance to all of our unit's.

Dana Heim  
Col, Commanding  
United States Volunteers  
19 May 1997

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>LEGEND OF SYMBOLS .....</b>	<b>page 1</b>
<b>FORMING COMPANY .....</b>	<b>page 2</b>
<b>LINE OF BATTLE .....</b>	<b>page 3</b>
<b>COLUMN OF COMPANIES .....</b>	<b>page 4</b>
FORMING COLUMN.....	page 4
BREAK TO THE REAR, INTO COLUMN.....	page 5
FORMING COLUMN FROM THE FLANK.....	page 8
DEPLOYING COLUMN.....	page 9
CLOSING COLUMN.....	page 11
CHANGING FRONT.....	page 12
ADVANCE/ RETIRE BY RIGHT/LEFT OF COMPANY.....	page 16
<b>MANEUVER BY DIVISION.....</b>	<b>page 21</b>
FORMING COLUMN OF DIVISIONS.....	page 21
FORM COLUMN "DOUBLED" ON CENTER.....	page 23
CHANGING FORMATION FROM DOUBLED COLUMN..	page 24
CLOSE COLUMN BY DIVISION.....	page 25
DEPLOYING COLUMN.....	page 26
<b>DEPLOYING BATTALION FROM A FLANK MARCH.....</b>	<b>page 28</b>
<b>BATTALION FIRINGS.....</b>	<b>page 29</b>
<b>PROCEDURES FOR DRESS PARADE.....</b>	<b>page 32</b>
<b>BRIGADE LEVEL DRESS PARADE.....</b>	<b>page 35</b>
<b>PASS IN REVIEW.....</b>	<b>page 38</b>

# LEGEND OF SYMBOLS USED IN THIS MANUAL

## Company Level Key:

<b>CPT</b> Captain	<b>1sg</b> First Sergeant
<b>1lt</b> First Lieut.	<b>2sg</b> Second Sergeant
<b>2lt</b> Second Lieut.	<b>3sg</b> Third Sergeant
<b>3lt</b> Third Lieut.	<b>4sg</b> Fourth Sergeant
<b>FM</b> Company Field Music	<b>5sg</b> Fifth Sergeant
	<b>cpl</b> Corporal






Front/Rear Rank Line of Privates

1st plt. Front Rank privates
1st Plt. Rear Rank Privates

## Battalion Level Key:

<b>COL</b> Colonel	<b>SgMa</b> Sergeant Major
<b>LTC</b> Lt. Colonel	<b>QMS</b> Quartermaster Sergeant
<b>Maj</b> Major	<b>CS</b> Color Sergeant
<b>jMaj</b> Junior Major (if used)	<b>CG</b> Color Guard (Corporals)
<b>adj</b> Adjutant	<b>LGG</b> Left General Guide (Sergeant)
<b>QM</b> Quartermaster	<b>RGG</b> Right General Guide (Sergeant)
<b>staff</b> All other assigned staff	<b>B</b> Bugler
<b>band</b> Band (if used)	<b>FM</b> Field Music

## Battalion & Brigade Movements Key:

 Company in "Line"	 Right General Guide
 Color Guard	 Direction of Movement
 Left General Guide	

## Brigade Level Key:

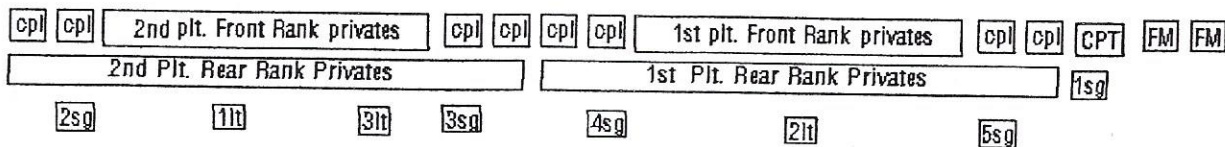
<b>BG</b> Brigade Commander	<b>AiC</b> Aide-in-Charge
<b>BStaff</b> Brigade Staff	

## FORMING COMPANY

### FORMATIONS OF THE COMPANY:

The proper formations used by the company when at the halt in line of battle are shown below. Particular attention should be given to each diagram as they show the changes in positioning of guides when operating as a separate company, by division, in line with the rest of the Battalion and the positioning flank companies.

#### A. Company operating separate from battalion or division "in Line" at the halt:

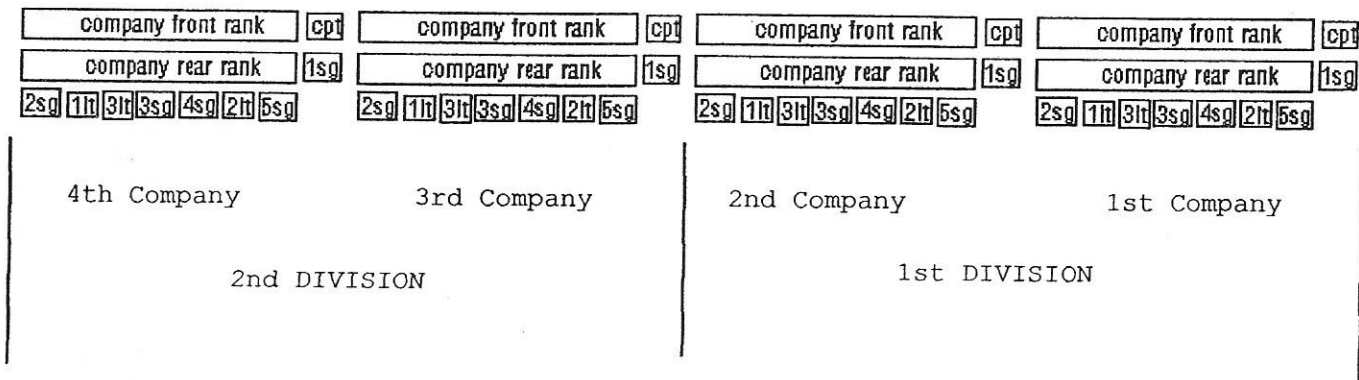


#### Notes:

- Reference for the above diagram is found in Casey's, Title I, Article I; paragraphs 12 through 32 on pages 11, 12 & 13.
- The position of Field Music when separated from Battalion is taken from the fold out "Plate 1" in the front of Casey's Manual.
- The 2nd Sgt. is the left guide in each company.
- The 1st Sgt. is the right guide in each company and takes his position covering the Captain.
- Should the Captain leave his position the 1st Sgt. steps up.
- When preparing to fire the Captain and Field Music go to the center rear of the company. Both the 1st and 2nd Sergeants step back on line with the rank of file closers.

#### B. COMPANIES OPERATING BY DIVISION:

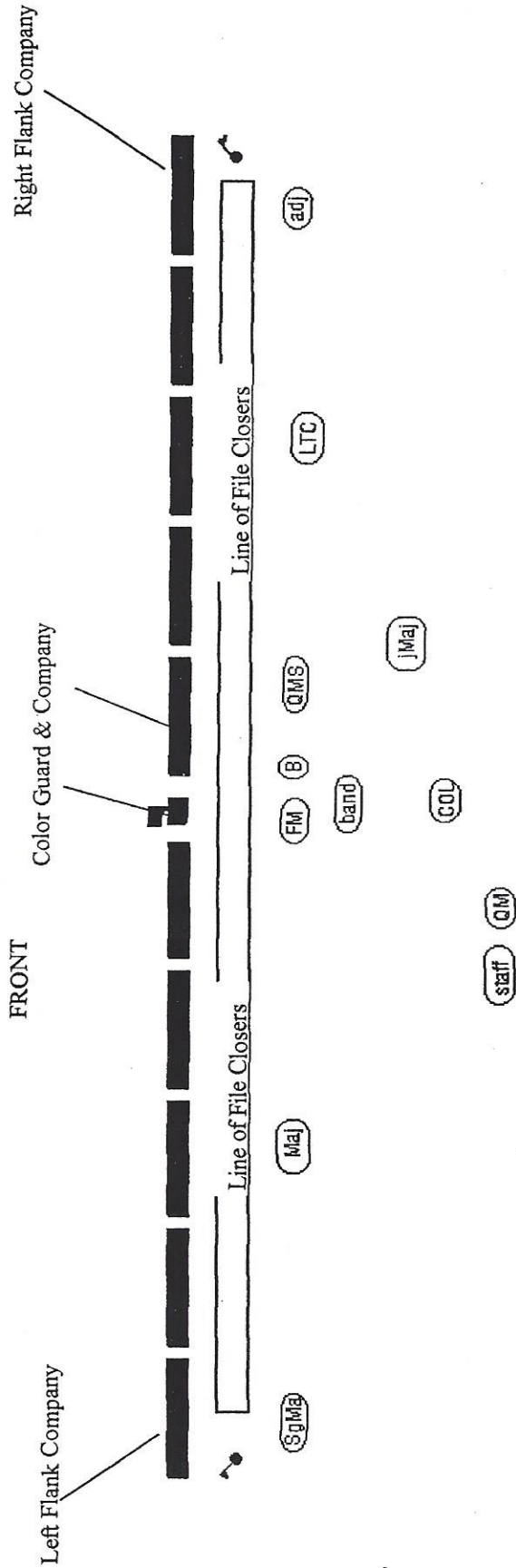
In each battalion of ten companies there are FIVE DIVISIONS. Each division consist of two companies starting from right to left along the Battalion front. The right flank Company is the first company, the next becomes the 2nd company and these are a Division for divisional maneuver with the exception of "Forming Column on the Center".



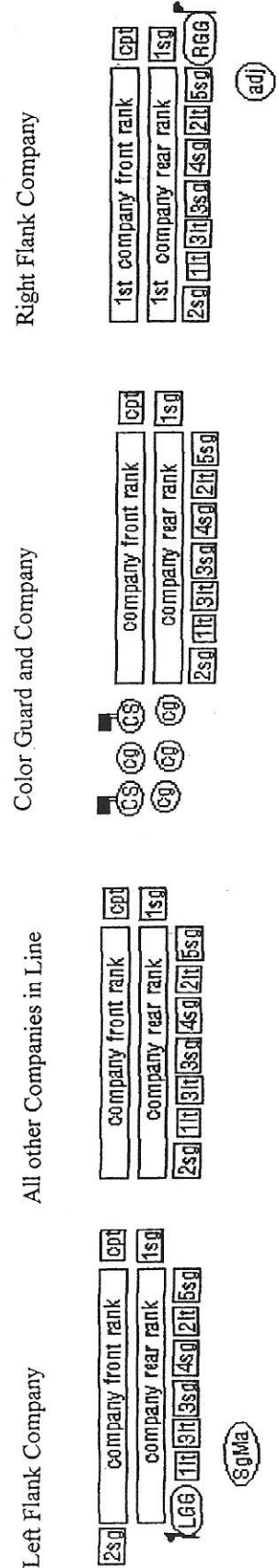
The diagram above shows only 4 companies of a regiment representing 2 Divisions. Remember that there are as many as 5 divisions, numbered 1 thru 5, from right to left, in a Battalion.

# Battalion formed in "Line of Battle" at the halt.

**NOTE:** This formation is the slightly modified for DRESS PARADE which is shown in the chapter "Dress Parade".



**NOTE:** Shown below are the placements of the file closers in the line based on the position the company is posted at on the line. The addition of the Left and Right General Guides to their respective flank companies and the addition of the Color Guard to the Color Company should be paid particular attention.



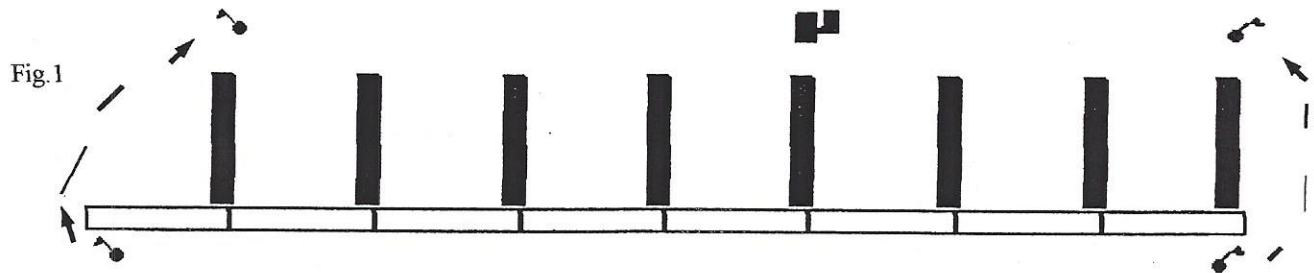
## COLUMN OF COMPANIES

### FORMING COLUMN:

There are two methods of forming a column of companies to the left or right from a battalion in line of battle. The first is to "break by the right (or left) into column." This method is described below in figure 1 and 2.

References for this maneuver are: Casey's School of the Battalion, Part II, Article I, para. 77 thru 85. pages 19 thru 21.  
Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part II, Article I, para. 68 thru 74. pages 18 & 19.

The second method is "By the right or left of companies, to the rear, into column" which is outlined in figures 4 and 5.



THE COMMANDS Given by the Battalion Commander ARE:

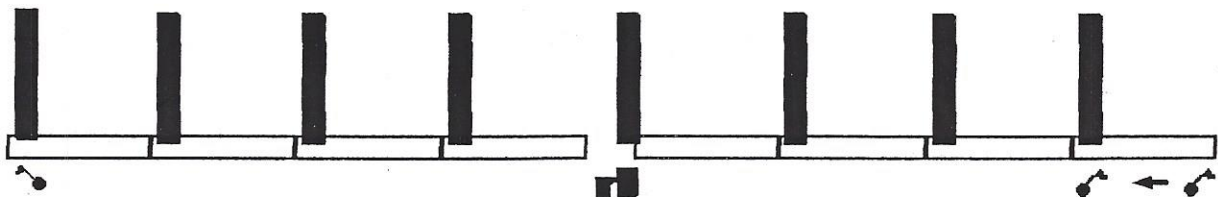
1. Preparatory: "BY COMPANY, RIGHT WHEEL" (each company commander steps forward/center on his company and gives caution of direction of the move.)
2. Execution: "MARCH" (each captain directs his company in the execution, left guides (2nd Sgts) conducts the marching flank. Company commanders Halt their companies when on line.)

In the diagram above (fig.1) the battalion is forming a column of companies to the right from a battalion halted in line of battle. This maneuver is the most commonly used, however, it may also be formed to the left. In this case the left flank company becomes the forward element and the general guides and colors remain in their positions as shown in figure 2 below.

THE COMMANDS Given by the Battalion Commander ARE:

1. Preparatory: "BY COMPANY, LEFT WHEEL" (NOTE: the 1st SGT (covering sgt) conducts the march and the 2nd sgt. remains in position and faces to the left.)
2. Execution: "MARCH"

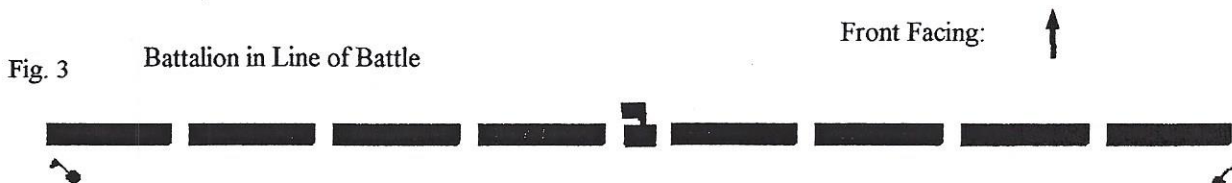
Fig.2



## COLUMN OF COMPANIES

### FORMING A COLUMN:

Figure 3 shows the battalion at the halt in line of battle. The second maneuver used to form a column of companies is: "By Right (or Left) of companies, to the rear, into column. References for these maneuvers are:  
Casey's School of the Battalion, Part II, Article II, para's 108 thru 115, pages 27 to 29.  
Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part II, Article Second, para's 87 thru 93, pages 23 to 25.



TO "BREAK TO THE REAR BY RIGHT (OR LEFT) , INTO COLUMN:

#### NOTE:

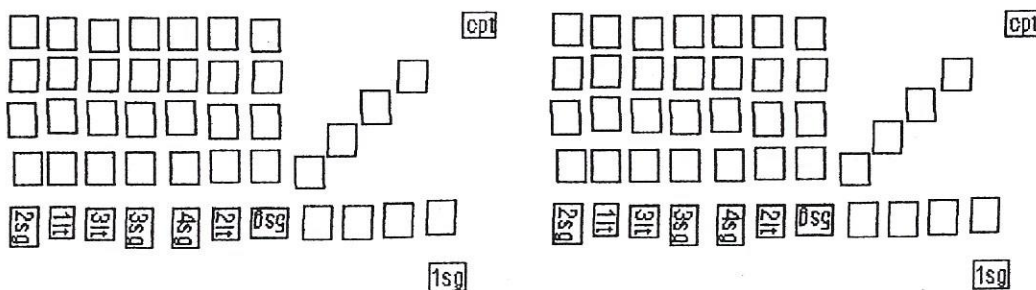
This maneuver is also used to execute a exchange or replacement of lines with a relieving battalion which will be explained later in this chapter. The maneuver was not to be done at "without doubling" as is so often heard at reenactments.

To Break to the Right:

THE COMMANDS Given by the Battalion Commander ARE:

1. Preparatory: "BY THE RIGHT OF COMPANIES TO THE REAR INTO COLUMN,  
(at this command the company commanders step forward to the center of their companies and caution it to face to the right , covering sergeant (1st SGT steps into front rank.) NO ONE ELSE MOVES YET!
- 2a. Preparatory: "BATTALION, RIGHT" (the Battalion Commander is alerting all companies to move on command and which direction he wants.)
- 2b. Execution: "FACE"      ( The entire battalion executes a right face. Each captain moves to the right of his company and causes the first 3 files to break to the rear with the first set on line with the rear rank of the battalion and the 1st Sergeant taking position as when marching by the flank (in fours).
3. Execution: "MARCH"      The entire Battalion steps of with each company following their 1st Sergeant to a into position. Each Company Commander remains stationary and orders his company to "HALT, FRONT and  
see Figure 5.      LEFT DRESS as soon as the last file of his company has wheeled past him. He then takes position 2 paces in front and centered on his company which is now in column of companies.

Figure 4. shows two companies in the correct position after executing the "FACE" command (2b. above) NO other movement is made yet.

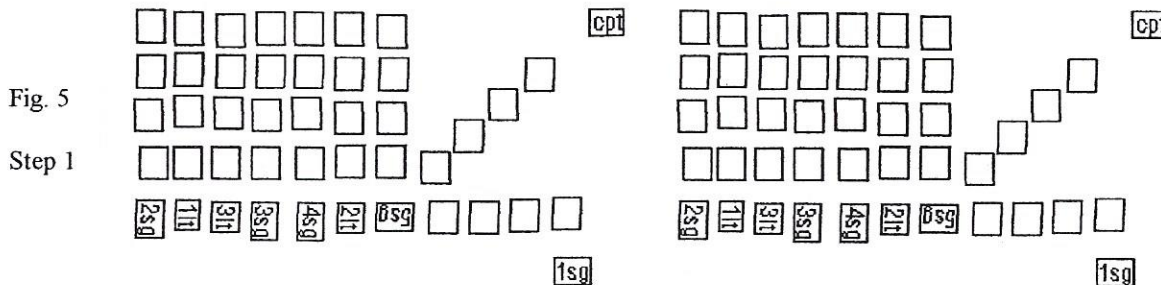




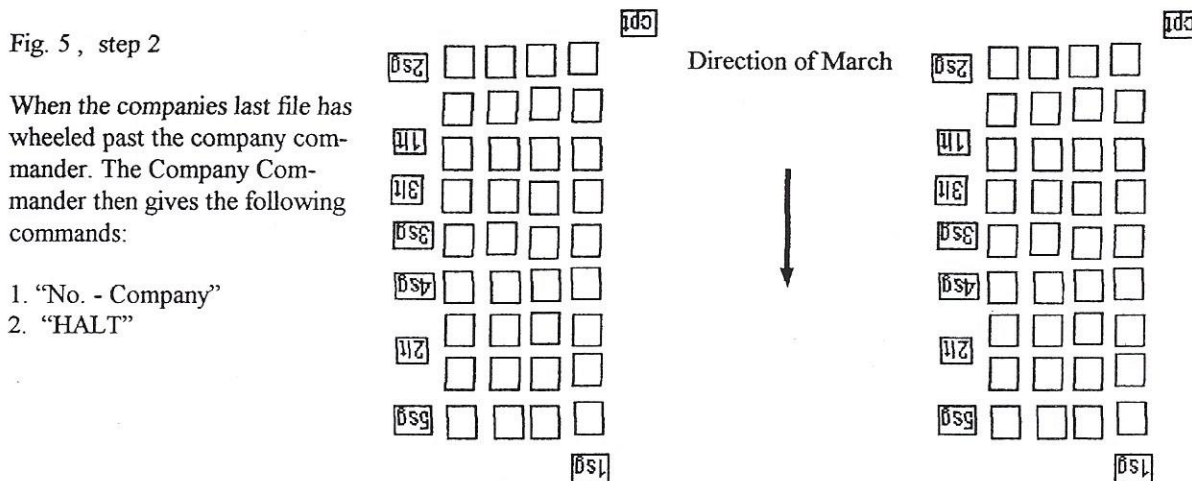
## COLUMN OF COMPANIES

### FORMING A COLUMN :

After seeing the the Battalion has completed the facing movement, the Battalion Commander give the command "MARCH".



NOTE: The Company Commander has not moved from his position after returning to the right of the companies old front.

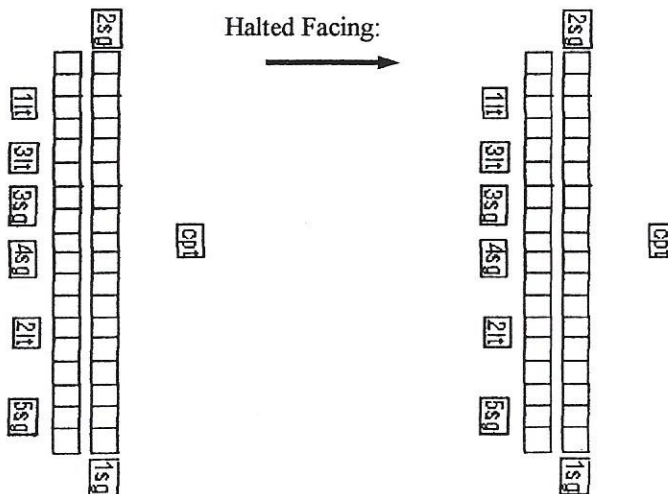


NOTE: The First Sergeants of each company must make sure to mind their distance between the companies.

### Fig. 5, step 3

After halting his company the COMPANY COMMANDER automatically commands "FRONT" and the Left Guide (2nd SGT) steps up to the commander gently touching his left arm to the Captains chest. The Captain then commands "LEFT DRESS".

The company aligns itself on the left guide and the Company Commander checks the alignment making sure the company is in proper position and perpendicular (90 Degrees) to the old front. He then commands "FRONT" and take his post before the center of the company.

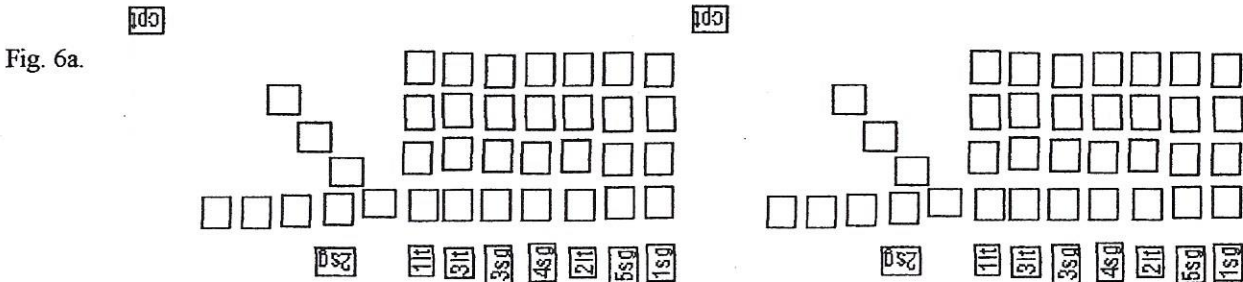


Battalion is now in a Column of Companies Halted and dressed to the left. The Color Guard executes these maneuvers as part of the Color Company.

## COLUMN OF COMPANIES

### TO MOVE BY LEFT OF COMPANY TO THE REAR INTO COLUMN:

The commands are the same as with that of moving by the right of companies **EXCEPT: The direction "LEFT" is substituted for right.** Shown in Figure 6a. below the companies have executed the left face and are waiting for the order to march.



In Figure 6b. the companies have completed filing past their respective commander.

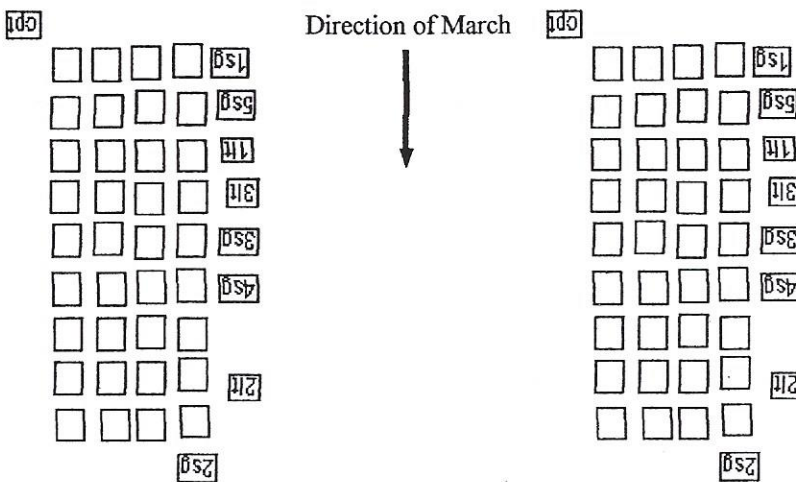


Fig. 6b.

When the companies last file has wheeled past the company commander. The Company Commander then gives the following commands:

1. "No. - Company"
2. "HALT"

NOTE: The Second Sergeants of each company must make sure to mind their distance between the companies.

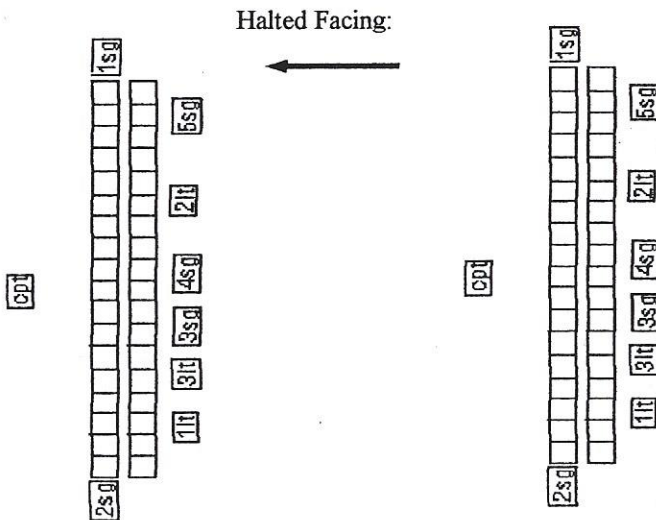


Fig. 6c.

After halting his company the COMPANY COMMANDER automatically commands "FRONT" and the Right Guide (1st SGT) steps up to the commander gently touching his left arm to the Captains chest. The Captain then commands "RIGHT DRESS".

The company aligns itself on the right guide and the Company Commander checks the alignment making sure the company is in proper position and perpendicular (270 Degrees) to the old front He then commands "FRONT" and take his post before the center of the company.

The Battalion is now formed in column of companies facing to the left. The Color Guard completes these maneuvers as part of the color company.

# COLUMN OF COMPANIES

## FORMING COLUMN FROM THE FLANK:

A third method is used when halted and faced left or right, or marching "by the flank" (four men abreast) and the Battalion Commander wishes to form the companies into a column the following orders are executed.

Reference: Casey's **SCHOOL of the COMPANY**, Lesson IV, Article V, para's 155 thru 163, pages 132 thru 134.

Hardee's **SCHOOL of the Company**, Lesson IV, Article Fifth, para's 153 thru 160, pages 123 thru 125.

### The Battalion Commander Commands:

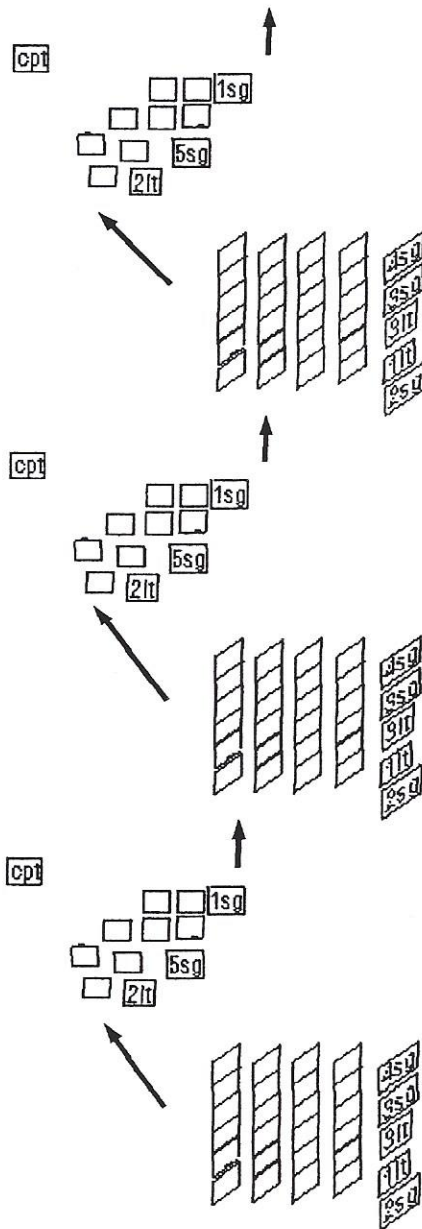
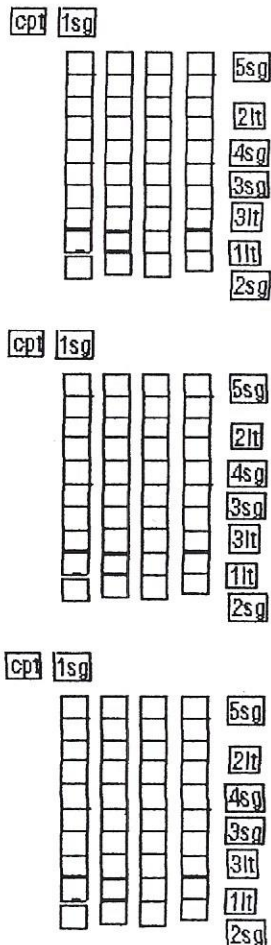
1. Preparatory: **"BY COMPANIES, INTO LINE"** (Co. Commanders caution: **"BY COMPANY INTO LINE"**)
2. Execution: **"MARCH"** (Co. Commanders direct their companies and order **"Guide Left"**).

The Center shows the Bn. Deploying into "Column of Companies."

1st Sergeants continue forward in a straight line unless ordered to halt.

The column below shows the battalion deployed into a "Column of Companies"

Below are three companies marching (or halted) by the right flank.



Company Commander moves two paces forward and centered on his company. 1st Sgt. is right Guide and 2nd Sgt. is left guide.

Members of companies form to the left of the 1st SGT. into the same positions they have when the company is fronted.

## COLUMN OF COMPANIES

### Deploying Column of Companies into Line of Battle: "FORWARD"

Casey's School of the Battalion, Part IV, Article III, para 530, pg. 123 states:

"If it be wished to form a column by company or division at half distance, forward into line of battle, the colonel will first cause it to close in mass, and then deploy it on the leading subdivision."

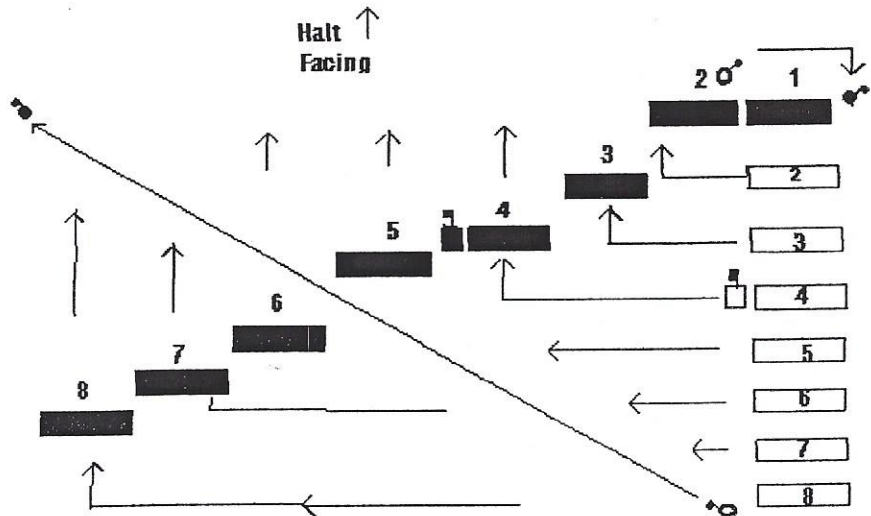
This indicates that the procedure for deploying a column of companies is the same as deploying a column of divisions. The only difference is each company commander will supervise his company instead of the division commander guiding two companies. ( This is discussed later under "Maneuver by Division")

**NOTE:**

In the past we have trained our units to deploy using Hardee's method which includes a "left Half wheel" and then forward.

Often this led to units overlapping each other and, while more direct in it's route of march, it can cause disorder when quick reaction is require.

The diagram at left is Casey's method and is a much cleaner way to accomplish the maneuver.



**The Battalion Commander Orders:**

1. Preparatory: "On the 1st Company, Deploy Column"

2a. Preparatory: "Battalion Left--"

On this preparatory command the 1st company Commander will caution his company to "Stand Fast". All other company commanders will caution "Left".

2b. Execution: "FACE"

On this command the 1st company stands fast, all other companies execute a left face. (This is not done "without doubling")

The company commanders move to the left of their respective companies and the left guide of their company.

3. Execution: "MARCH"

On this command each company marches directly left a distance that allows them to front and move forward into line without overlapping each other.

The Company Commanders allow their companies to pass them and at the appropriate time order their company to "Halt" and "Front". The company commander then steps two paces in front and centered on his company and orders it "Forward". Once on line he halts the company and dresses it to the right.

NOTE: 3. above can be executed on without a halt if the company commanders order "By the Right Flank - March", when they have reached their point along the line.

## COLUMN OF COMPANIES

### Deploying Column of Companies into Line of Battle: ON the RIGHT.

Casey's School of the Battalion, Part IV, Article III, para 500-529, pgs. 116 - 123.  
 Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part IV, Article Fourth, para 507, pg 115.  
 Then Article Second para 414 thru 439 pgs 94 - 99.

The Colonel directs the LT. Col. where the point of rest for the right of the Battalion will be and the LT. Col. takes the Right General Guide and the left guide from the 1st company to mark the line is to be set for the deployment and then Commands as follows:

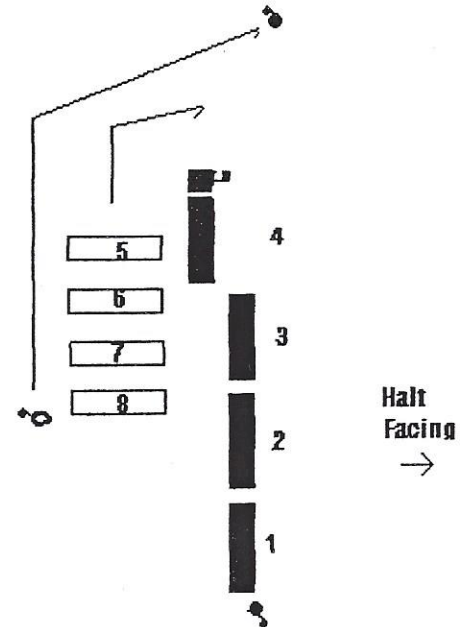
The Colonel Commands:

1. Preparatory: "ON THE RIGHT INTO LINE"
2. Preparatory: "BATTALION, GUIDE RIGHT"

The column continues to march until the leading company comes near to the right guide marker at which time the COMPANY COMMANDER will command: "RIGHT TURN" and then "MARCH" when exactly next to the marker.

The company then executes a right turn and, when 3 paces from the line, the Captain commands: "FIRST COMPANY" "HALT" and "RIGHT DRESS".

Each company passing to the rear of the deploying company and executes the above on direction of their respective company commander.



### Deploying Column of Companies into Line of Battle: TO the LEFT.

Casey's School of the Battalion, Part IV,  
 Article III, para 492-498, pgs. 113 - 116.  
 Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part IV,  
 Article Fourth, para 501-506, pgs 113 - 115.

The Colonel Commands:

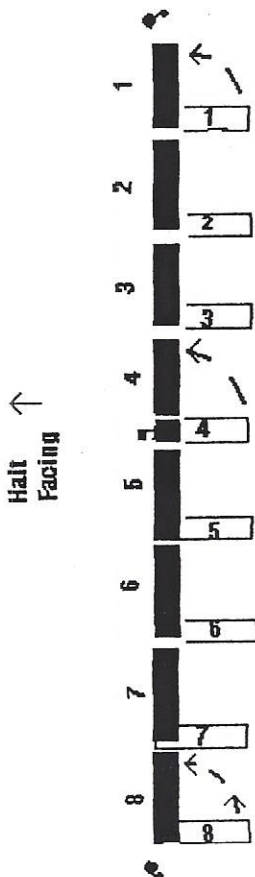
1. Preparatory: "BY THE REAR OF COLUMN, LEFT INTO LINE, WHEEL "  
 The Right General guide moves forward to a spot a little farther than where the head of the column will rest.  
 The Company Commander of the 8th (or rear) company cautions: "Left into Line, wheel"  
 The rest of the company commanders caution: "forward"

2. Execution: "MARCH"

The Company Commander of the 8th (or rear) company orders: "MARCH"

The remaining company commanders move to the left flank of their companies and upon seeing that there is sufficient distance between his company and the one behind, he orders:

"LEFT INTO LINE, WHEEL, - MARCH"



## COLUMN OF COMPANIES

### Closing Column of Companies from Line of Battle:

Casey's School of the Battalion, Part IV, Article III, para 157-214, pgs. 38 - 49.

Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part II, Article Third, para 117-160, pg 29-37.

These maneuvers are the same as used for closing by division with the exception being that each company moves as a company and not as part of a division. To illustrate these maneuvers we are using a battalion of 6 companies in order to save space.

#### Close Column by Company, Right in Front:

The Drawing at right depicts a 6 company battalion executing this maneuver. The commands are:

##### The Colonel commands:

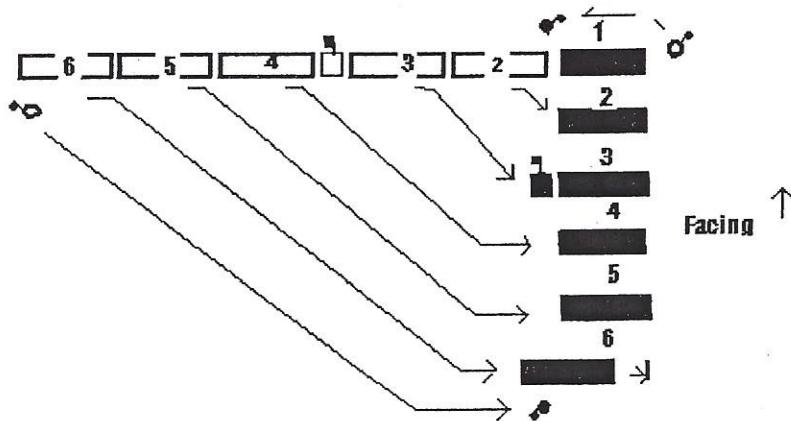
1. Preparatory: "Close Column by Company"
2. Preparatory: "On the First Company, Right in Front"
3. Execute: "Battalion, Right, FACE"

Company commander caution "right" The first Company commander cautions "Stand Fast". Companies 2 thru 6 execute a right face.

4. Execute: "MARCH"

Captains of Co's 2 thru 6 guide their companies to their respective positions, "Halt" and "front" their companies.

They then step two paces in front and centered on their company. Guide is Left.

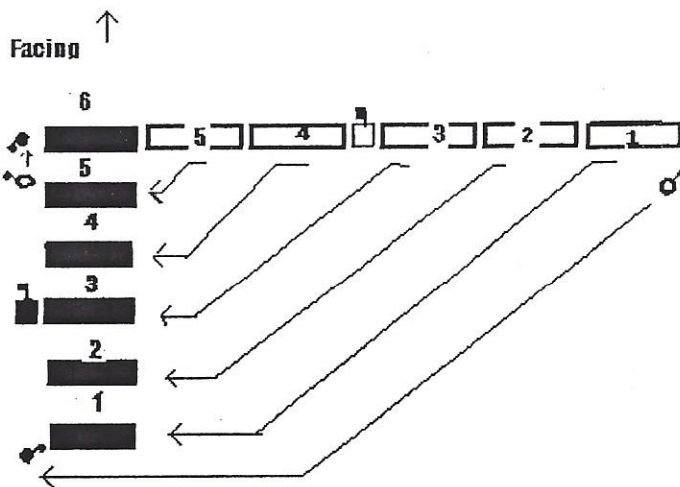


#### Close Column by Company, Left in Front:

This maneuver, shown at right, is basically the same as "right in front" with the exception being that the 6th company stands fast while the 5th thru 1st companies execute LEFT Face and march to their positions behind the 6th. Thus the left of the line is to the front.

##### The Colonel Commands:

1. Preparatory: "Close Column by Company"
2. Preparatory: "On the 6th Company, (whichever number is on the left), Left in Front"
3. Execute: "Battalion, Left, FACE" (6th company stands fast)
4. Execute: "MARCH"

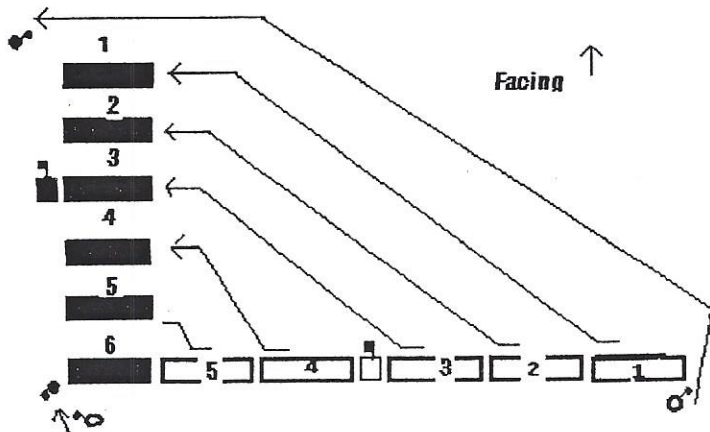


**NOTE: Depending on terrain, enemy positions, etc., the Colonel may desire to close column on another company or to the left with the right in front.**

Pictured at left is one example of this. In order to accomplish this maneuver the Colonel Commands:

1. Preparatory: "Close Column by Company"
2. Preparatory: "On the 6th Company, RIGHT in FRONT"
3. Execute: "Battalion LEFT, FACE"
4. Execute: "MARCH"

The battalion may also close on any of the companies on line simply by the colonel commanding the number of the company to close on and "INWARDS, FACE" instead of left or right face in the 3rd order. The company named to close on always stands fast.



# BATTALION LINE OF BATTLE

## CHANGING FRONT to the RIGHT or LEFT from Line of Battle:

References: Casey's School of the Battalion, Part V, Article XII, para's 830 to 873, pgs: 187 thru 195.

Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part V, Article Twelfth, para's 743 thru 775, pgs" 165 thru 172.

### A. CHANGE FRONT FORWARD (TO THE RIGHT)

If the Battalion is in Line of Battle and the Colonel wishes to Change front to the Right he sets two markers and directs the Captain of the first company to immediately set his company on the new line.

Once accomplished the Commands to the rest of the Battalion are:

1. Preparatory:

"Change Front Forward on the First Company"

- Each Captain steps front and center on his company.

2. Preparatory: "By Company, Right Half Wheel"

3. Execution: "March"

- The remaining companies execute a right half wheel and -

NOTE: When the Colonel sees that each company has executed this maneuver HE Commands:

4. Preparatory: "Forward"

5. Execute: "March"

- The companies cease wheeling and move straight ahead.

6. Direction: "Guide Right"

- Each soldier will touch elbows to the right.

NOTE: As each company arrives at the left file of the company to its right the Captain will order it to execute a "Right Turn" and guide his company into line on the new facing.

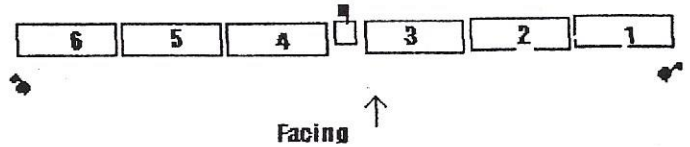
Seeing this done the Colonel Commands:

7. Execute: "Guides - Post"

- All company and general guides return to their post within the company in Line of Battle.

NOTE: While this maneuver may seem a little complicated at first. IT IS QUICKER AND EASIER TO PERFORM THAN TRYING TO KEEP YOUR ALIGNMENT WHILE EXECUTING A BATTALION "WHEEL".

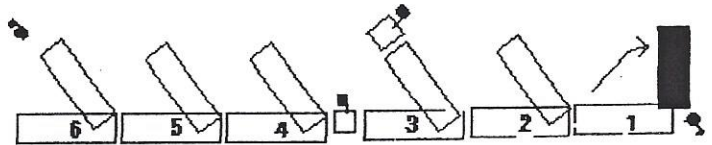
(It is also more authentic.)



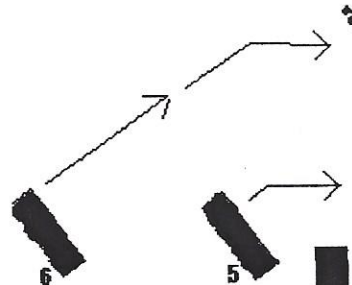
ABOVE: Battalion in Line of Battle.

BELOW: New front is set and Battalion has completed the "Right Half Wheel" The Col. now orders "Forward, March"

Right Half Wheel facing



1st Company wheels right to establish the line.



Shown at left:

Company commanders guide their companies forward and right turn into the line as they pass the left file of the company to their right.



# BATTALION LINE OF BATTLE

## CHANGING FRONT to the RIGHT or LEFT from Line of Battle:

References: Casey's School of the Battalion, Part V, Article XII, para's 830 to 873, pgs: 187 thru 195.

Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part V, Article Twelfth, para's 743 thru 775, pgs" 165 thru 172.

### B. CHANGE FRONT FORWARD (TO THE LEFT)

If the Battalion is in Line of Battle and the Colonel wishes to Change front to the Left he sets two markers and directs the Captain of the left flank company to immediately set his company on the new line.

Once accomplished the Commands to the rest of the Battalion are:

1. Preparatory:

"Change Front Forward on the Tenth Company"

- Each Captain steps front and center on his company.

2. Preparatory: "By Company, Left Half Wheel"

3. Execution: "March"

- The remaining companies execute a left half wheel and -

NOTE: When the Colonel sees that each company has executed this maneuver HE Commands:

4. Preparatory: "Forward"

5. Execute: "March"

- The companies cease wheeling and move straight ahead.

6. Direction: "Guide Left"

- Each soldier will touch elbows to the left.

NOTE: As each company arrives at the right file of the company to its left the Captain will order it to execute a "Left Turn" and guide his company into line on the new facing.

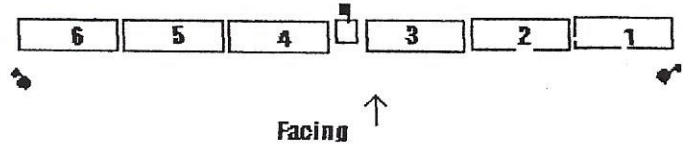
Seeing this done the Colonel Commands:

7. Execute: "Guides - Post"

- All company and general guides return to their post within the company in Line of Battle.

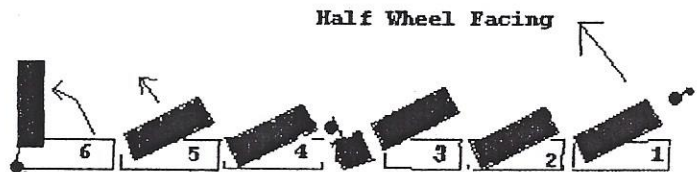
NOTE: While this maneuver may seem a little complicated at first. IT IS QUICKER AND EASIER TO PERFORM THAN TRYING TO KEEP YOUR ALIGNMENT WHILE EXECUTING A BATTALION "WHEEL".

(It is also more authentic.)

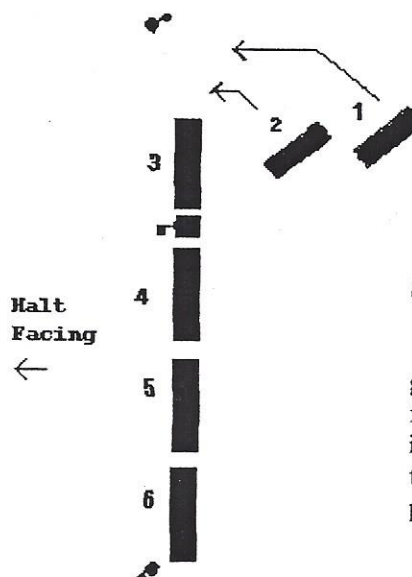


ABOVE: Battalion in Line of Battle.

BELOW: The Colonel has set his line and ordered the battalion "Change Front Forward, On the 6th Company" "By Company, Left Half Wheel" "March"



Left Flank Company wheels to establish line. All others execute Left Half Wheel and halt.



Shown at left:

Company commanders guide their companies forward and left turn into the line as they pass the right file of the company to their left.



# BATTALION LINE OF BATTLE

## CHANGING FRONT to the RIGHT or LEFT from Line of Battle:

References: Casey's School of the Battalion, Part V, Article XII, para's 830 to 873, pgs: 187 thru 195.

Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part V, Article Twelfth, para's 743 thru 775, pgs" 165 thru 172.

### A. CHANGE FRONT TO THE REAR (TO THE RIGHT)

If the Battalion is in Line of Battle and the Colonel wishes to Change front to the Right he sets two markers and directs the Captain of the first company to immediately set his company on the new line.

Once accomplished the Commands to the rest of the Battalion are:

1. Preparatory:

"Change Front To the Rear on the First Company"

- Each Captain steps front and center on his company.

2. Execution: "Battalion, about - FACE"

- On this command all companies (except the first which is already in position) face about.

3. Preparatory: "By Company, Left Half Wheel"

- On this command the captains of the companies which have faced about go 2 paces and centered on the rear of their companies. (The front rank now being the rear rank.)

4. Execution: "March"

- The companies execute a left half wheel and -

NOTE: When the Colonel sees that each company has executed this maneuver HE Commands:

4. Preparatory: "Forward"

5. Execute: "March"

- The companies cease wheeling and move straight ahead.

6. Direction: "Guide Left"

- Each soldier will touch elbows to the left.

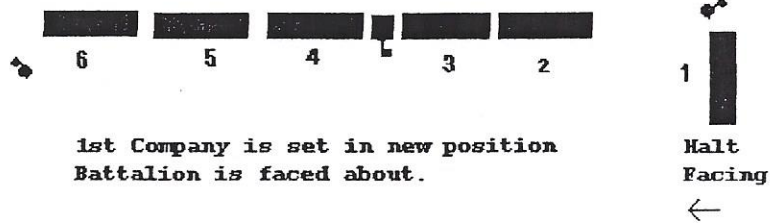
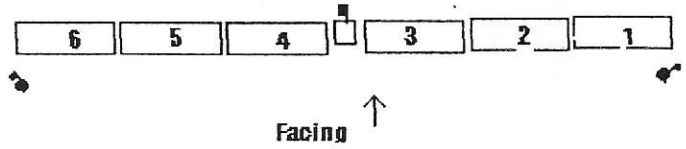
NOTE: As each company arrives at the left file of the company to its left (in the direction of march) the Captain will order it to execute a "Left Turn" and guide his company 3 paces past the front rank of the new line then order "Halt, About Face" and align his company (Right Dress) into line on the new facing.

Seeing this done the Colonel Commands:

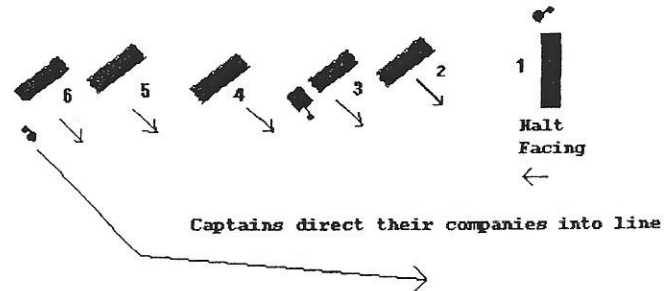
7. Execute: "Guides - Post"

- All company and general guides return to their post within the company in Line of Battle.

NOTE: While this maneuver may seem a little complicated at first. IT IS QUICKER AND EASIER TO PERFORM THAN TRYING TO KEEP YOUR ALIGNMENT WHILE EXECUTING A BATTALION "WHEEL".



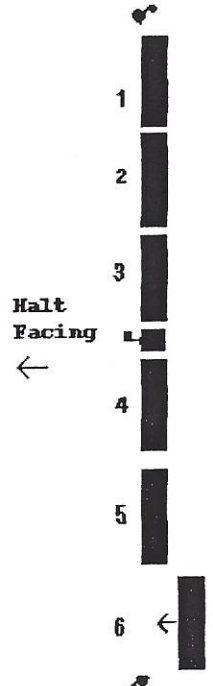
Companies execute Left half wheel then forward on command of the Colonel.



AT RIGHT:

Companies 1 thru 5 complete the maneuver and company 6 has faced about and is moving on line.

The Battalion has now "Changed Front to the Rear, On the First Company"



# BATTALION LINE OF BATTLE

## CHANGING FRONT to the RIGHT or LEFT from Line of Battle:

References: Casey's School of the Battalion, Part V, Article XII, para's 830 to 873, pgs: 187 thru 195.

Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part V, Article Twelfth, para's 743 thru 775, pgs" 165 thru 172.

### B. CHANGE FRONT TO THE REAR (TO THE LEFT)

If the Battalion is in Line of Battle and the Colonel wishes to Change front to the Left he sets two markers and directs the Captain of the left flank company to immediately set his company on the new line.

Once accomplished the Commands to the rest of the Battalion are:

1. Preparatory:

"Change Front To the Rear, on the Tenth Company"

- Each Captain steps front and center on his company.

2. Execution: "Battalion, about, FACE"

- Each company (except the 10th already positioned) faces about.

3. Preparatory: "By Company, Right Half Wheel"

At this command the captains place themselves to the rear of their companies, two paces and centered from the front (now rear) rank.

4. Execution: "March"

- The remaining companies execute a right half wheel and -

NOTE: When the Colonel sees that each company has executed this maneuver HE Commands:

5. Preparatory: "Forward"

6. Execute: "March"

- The companies cease wheeling and move straight ahead.

7. Direction: "Guide Right"

- Each soldier will touch elbows to the right.

NOTE: As each company arrives at the right file of the company to its right (as he is facing while marching) the Captain will order it to execute a "Right Turn" and guide his company 3 paces past the new line, command his company to "Halt" "About Face" and then align it (Dress Left) on the new facing.

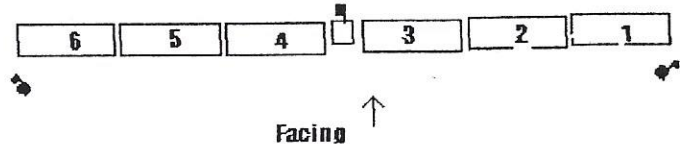
Seeing this done the Colonel Commands:

7. Execute: "Guides - Post"

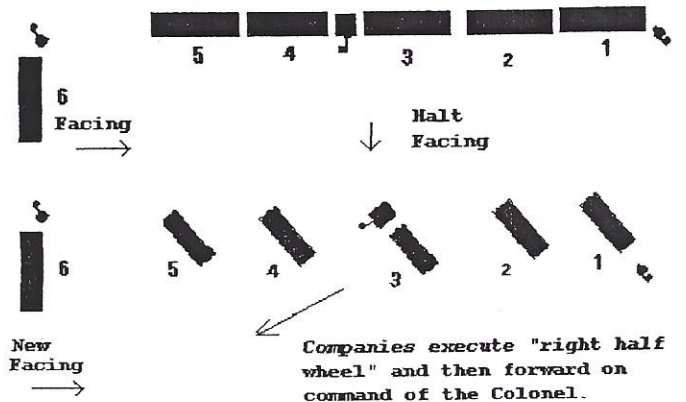
- All company and general guides return to their post within the company in Line of Battle.

NOTE: While this maneuver may seem a little complicated at first. IT IS QUICKER AND EASIER TO PERFORM THAN TRYING TO KEEP YOUR ALIGNMENT WHILE EXECUTING A BATTALION "WHEEL".

(It is also more authentic.)



Only 6 companies are used for diagram demonstrations. Pictured Below: The colonel has positioned the left flank in it's new front and the Battalion has executed "About Face".



Companies execute "right half wheel" and then forward on command of the Colonel.



AT Left:

Companies 2 thru 6 complete the maneuver and company 1 has faced about and is moving on line.

The Battalion has now "Changed Front to the Rear, On the Tenth (Sixth) Company"

NOTE: When maneuvering by the left flank of the Battalion the number company will be the number of the left flank company. i.e.: A 10 company Bn. is "On the 10th Company" a 7 Company Bn would be "On the 7th Company."

## ADVANCING OR RETIRING BY THE LEFT OR RIGHT OF COMPANIES:

The last section of this chapter deals with moving by the right or left of companies to the front or rear **WITHOUT** going into column.

**Reference:** Casey's School of the Battalion, Part II, Article II, para. 135 thru 148, pages 33 to 36.

Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part II, Article Second, para. 105 thru 112, pages 27 and 28.

**NOTE:** These maneuver may be performed from at the "quick" or "double-quick" and may be executed from the halt or on the move. It is used to quickly relieve another Battalion on the firing line, advance around obstacles or retire the battalion to another position directly to the rear of the present position.

### TO ADVANCE BY RIGHT OF COMPANIES:

THE COMMAND'S Given by the Battalion Commander ARE:

1. Preparatory: "BY RIGHT OF COMPANIES TO THE FRONT."
- 2a. Preparatory: "BATTALION RIGHT"    2b. Execution: "FACE" (Companies execute right face)
3. Execution: "MARCH"            4. Direction: "GUIDE RIGHT" (Left or Center can be used)

**NOTE:** The procedure here is the same as "Right of Companies to the Rear into Column" **EXCEPT:** The Company Commander break their files to the front and when the Colonel commands "March" they take their normal position beside the first sergeant and guide the company forward. **The companies keep moving until ordered to halt or move in another direction. Company Commanders do not halt their companies as in forming column.** Figures 7a. and 7b. show the maneuver.

Fig. 7a. The company executes Right Face.

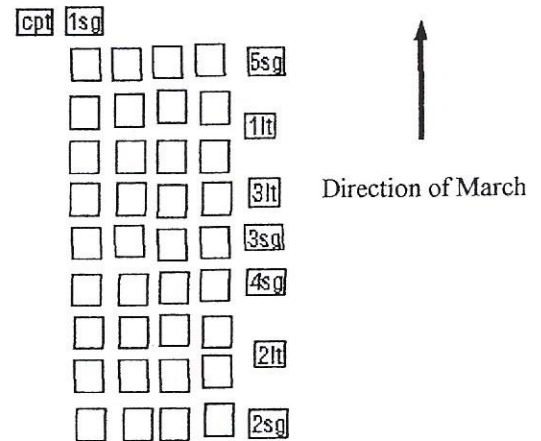
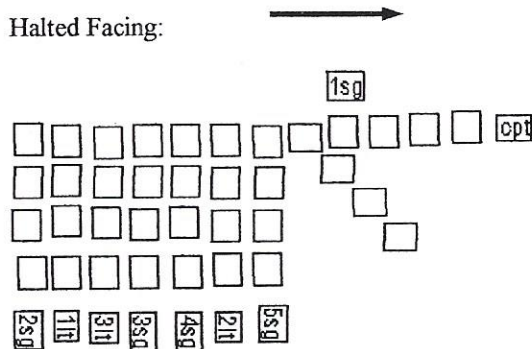


Fig. 7b. (At right)  
On the command "March" the company is guided forward by their commander.

### TO ADVANCE BY LEFT OF COMPANIES:

THE COMMAND'S Given by the Battalion Commander ARE:

1. Preparatory: "BY LEFT OF COMPANIES TO THE FRONT."
- 2a. Preparatory: "BATTALION LEFT"    2b. Execution: "FACE" (Companies execute right face)
3. Execution: "MARCH"            4. Direction: "GUIDE RIGHT" (Left or Center can be used)

**NOTE:** The procedure here is the same as "Left of Companies to the Rear into Column" **EXCEPT:** The Company Commanders break their files to the front and when the Colonel commands "March" they take their position beside the second sergeant and guide the company forward. **The companies keep moving until ordered to halt or move in another direction. Company Commanders do not halt their companies as in forming column.** Figures 8a. and 8b. show the maneuver.

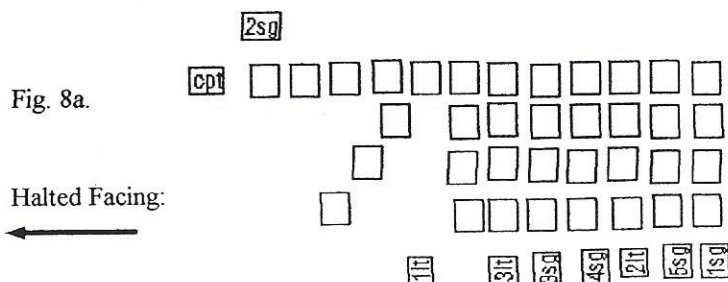


Fig. 8a.

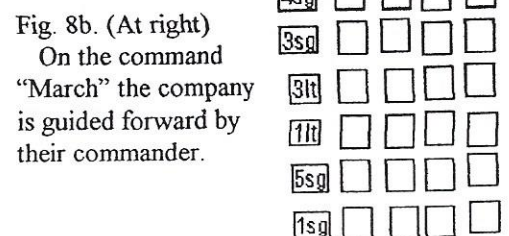


Fig. 8b. (At right)  
On the command "March" the company is guided forward by their commander.

## ADVANCING AND RETIRING BY THE LEFT OR RIGHT OF COMPANIES:

### TO RETIRE BY RIGHT OF COMPANIES:

THE COMMAND'S Given by the Battalion Commander ARE:

1. Preparatory: **"BY RIGHT OF COMPANIES TO THE REAR."**
- 2a. Preparatory: **"BATTALION RIGHT"** 2b. Execution: **"FACE"** (Companies execute right face)
3. Execution: **"MARCH"** 4. Direction: **"GUIDE RIGHT"** (Left or Center can be used)

**NOTE:**The procedure here is the same as "Right of Companies to the Rear into Column" (See. fig. 5, step 1 & 2) **EXCEPT:** when the Colonel commands "March" they take their normal position beside the first sergeant and guide the company to the rear. **The companies continue moving rearward until ordered to halt or move in another direction. Company Commanders do not halt their units as in forming column.**

### TO RETIRE BY LEFT OF COMPANIES:

THE COMMAND'S Given by the Battalion Commander ARE:

1. Preparatory: **"BY LEFT OF COMPANIES TO THE REAR."**
- 2a. Preparatory: **"BATTALION LEFT"** 2b. Execution: **"FACE"** (Companies execute LEFT face)
3. Execution: **"MARCH"** 4. Direction: **"GUIDE LEFT"** (Right or Center can be used)

**NOTE:**The procedure here is the same as "Left of Companies to the Rear into Column" (See. fig. 6a. and 6b.) **EXCEPT:** when the Colonel commands "March" they take their normal position beside the second sergeant and guide the company to the rear. **The companies continue moving rearward until ordered to halt or move in another direction. Company Commanders do not halt their units as in forming column.**

### TO DEPLOY THE BATTALION WHEN ADVANCING BY RIGHT OR LEFT OF COMPANIES:

**References:** Casey's School of the Battalion, Part II, Article II, para. 150, 151 and 152, pages 37 & 38.  
Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part II, Article Second, para. 113, 114 and 115 pages 28 & 29.

THE COMMAND'S Given by the Battalion Commander ARE:

1. Preparatory: **"BY COMPANY INTO LINE."**
2. Execution: **"MARCH"**

On the command "MARCH" the company commanders repeat the command and the companies form into line of battle as prescribed in the SCHOOL of the COMPANY. (Casey's para. 155, lesson IV, page 132. or Hardee's para. 154, lesson IV, page 124.)

3. Direction: **"GUIDE CENTER"** On this command the Color and Battalion General Guides move to their respective places in line of battle.

### TO DEPLOY THE BATTALION WHEN RETIRING BY RIGHT OF COMPANIES:

**References:** Casey's School of the Battalion, Part II, Article II, para. 154, page 38.  
Hardee's School of the Battalion, Part II, Article Second, para. 116, page 29.

THE COMMAND'S Given by the Battalion Commander ARE:

1. Preparatory: **"BATTALION"**
2. Preparatory: **"RIGHT ABOUT"**.
3. Execution: **"MARCH"**

On the command "MARCH" the companies execute a "Right About" and continue to march as prescribed in the SCHOOL of the COMPANY. ( Casey's , lesson III, para 128, page 125. OR Hardee's, lesson III, para. 128, pages 116 & 117.)

The Colonel then issues the order "By Company into line" as described above.

If the Colonel wishes to turn about and not advance the commands are:

1. Preparatory: **"BATTALION"**
2. Preparatory: **"RIGHT ABOUT"**
3. Execution: **"HALT"** (All companies right about and halt!)

## ADVANCING AND RETIRING BY THE LEFT OR RIGHT OF COMPANIES:

### TO RELIEVE A BATTALION BY A PASSAGE OF LINES:

While this maneuver is not outlined in Casey's or Hardee's it may be accomplished using correct period commands as described in the manuals. We cannot say that units did not use this maneuver when circumstance called for it.

Casey's Evolution's of a Brigade - Part V, Article XV, para's 706 thru 716 outlines a Brigade Passage of lines. This is described latter in this handout and may be used when the situation at a given battle permits.

The maneuver outline below, while not in the manual, is accomplished by using proper period commands from the manual, and is better suited to the various site and unit strengths we deal with at reenactments.

Pictured below are two battalions formed into line. The 1st Bn. (Black) is about to be relieved by the 2nd Bn. (White)! Steps 1 thru 4 outline the procedure.



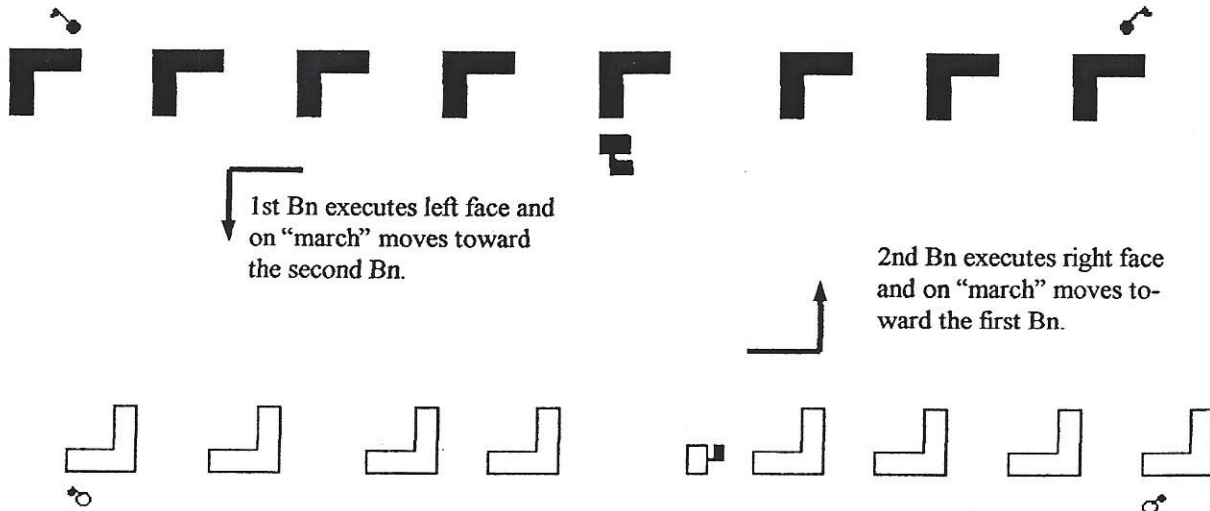
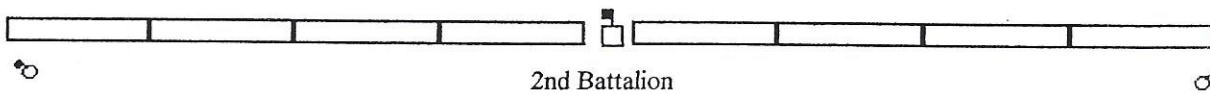
STEP 1 :

The Commander of the 1st Battalion orders:

**"BY LEFT OF COMPANIES TO THE REAR, LEFT FACE, - MARCH"**

The Commander of the 2nd Battalion orders:

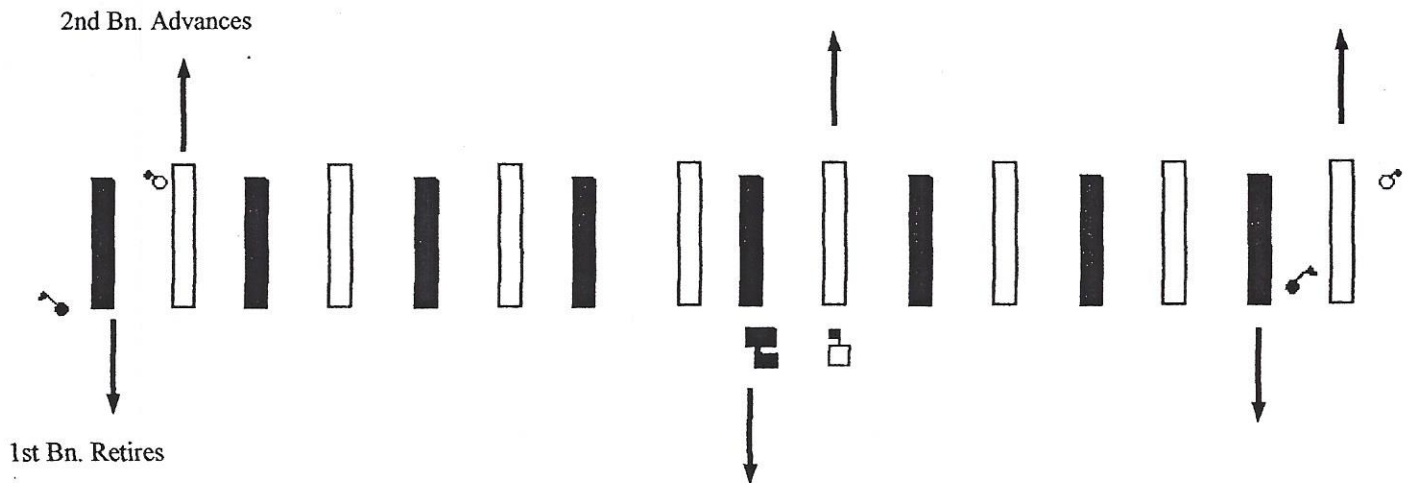
**"BY RIGHT OF COMPANIES TO THE FRONT, RIGHT FACE, - MARCH"**



## ADVANCING AND RETIRING BY THE LEFT OR RIGHT OF COMPANIES:

### TO RELIEVE A BATTALION BY A PASSAGE OF LINES:

Step 2: The battalions pass each other. The 1st is going toward the rear by left of companies and the 2nd is advancing by right of companies.



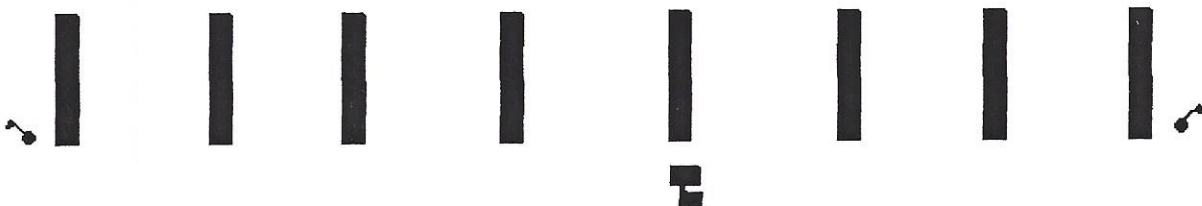
### TO RELIEVE A BATTALION BY A PASSAGE OF LINES:

Step 3: After the battalions pass each other. The 2nd Bn. may be deployed into line by the command:

1. Preparatory: "BY COMPANIES INTO LINE," 2. Execution: "MARCH" (or Double Quick, March)
3. Direction: "GUIDE CENTER"



2nd Battalion has now deployed and relieved the 1st Bn on the line of battle.  
1st Bn. is continuing rearward by left of companies.



Step 4:

If the 1st Battalion Commander want to form a line facing the enemy and in the rear of the 2nd Bn. (also correcting the direction of the companies), he commands:

1. Preparatory: "RIGHT ABOUT" 2. Execute: "MARCH" (The Battalion execute a modern to the rear march.) and then orders "BY COMPANIES INTO LINE, MARCH. GUIDE CENTER"

If the commander does not want to advance toward the 2nd Battalion the command is:

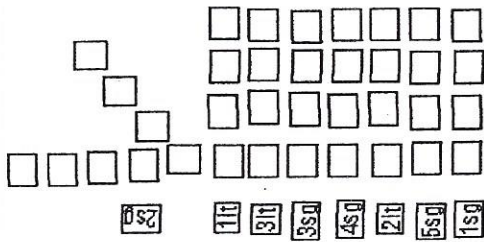
1. Preparatory: "RIGHT ABOUT" 2. Execute: "HALT" (The Battalion executes step, face, step and Halt!)

# ADVANCING AND RETIRING BY THE LEFT OR RIGHT OF COMPANIES:

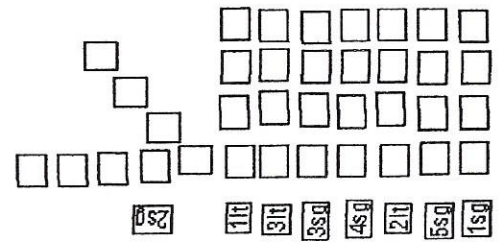
## TO RELIEVE A BATTALION BY A PASSAGE OF LINES:

Pictured below are two companies from the 2nd Battalion (Bottom of page) relieving two of the 1st Battalion (Top)

**[cpt]**

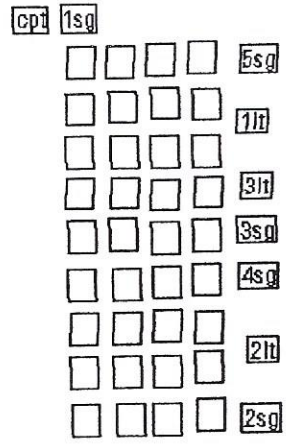
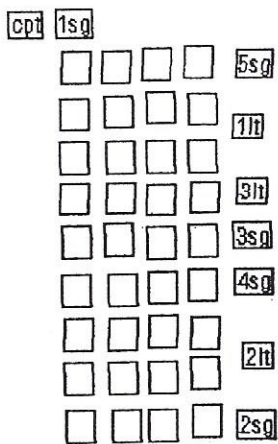
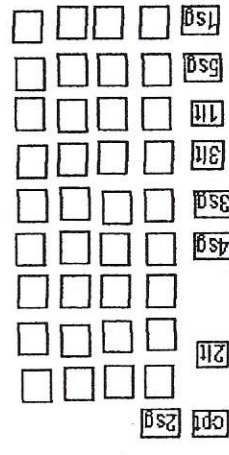
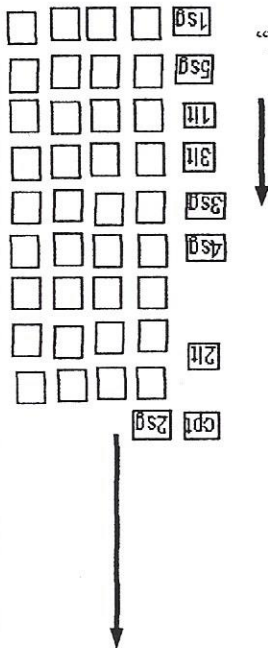


**[cpt]**



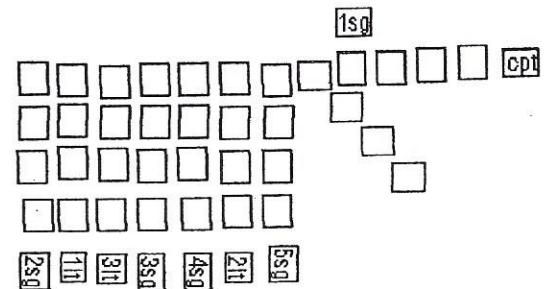
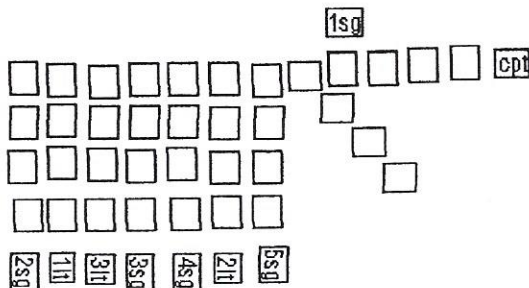
1st Bn. Companies execute:

"By left of Companies to the rear"



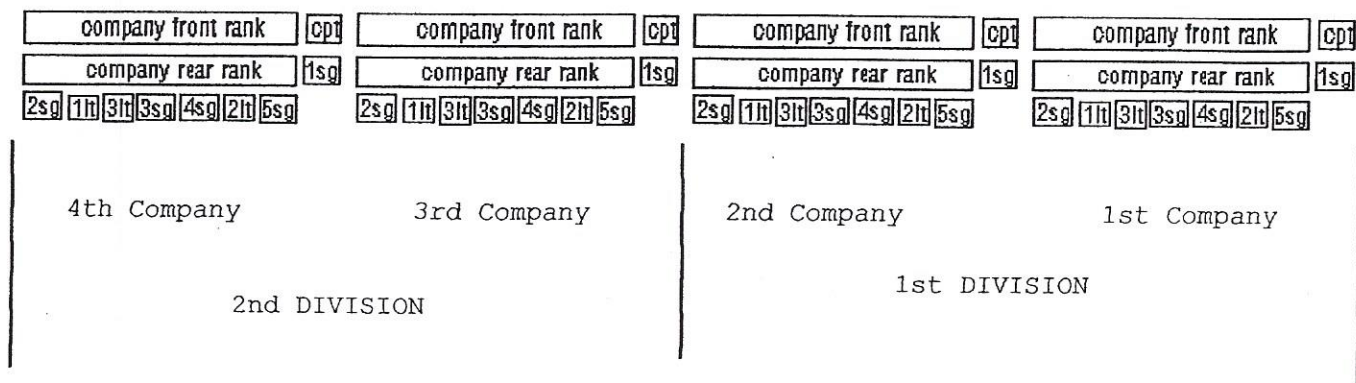
2nd Bn. Companies execute:

"By right of Companies to the front"



## MANEUVER BY DIVISION

In each battalion of ten companies there is FIVE DIVISIONS. Each division consist of two companies starting from right to left along the Battalion front. The right flank Company is the first company, the next becomes the 2nd company and these are a Division for divisional maneuver with the exception of "Forming Column on the Center".



The diagram above shows only 4 companies of a regiment representing 2 Divisions. Remember that there are as many as 5 divisions, numbered 1 thru 5, from right to left, in a Battalion.

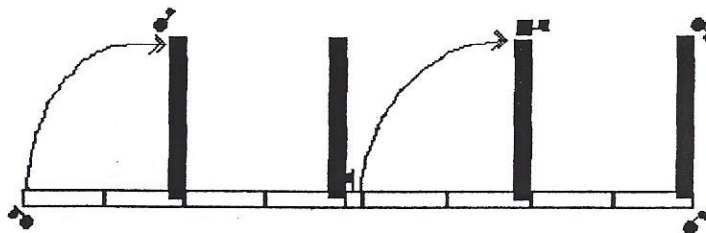
### FORMING COLUMN OF DIVISIONS

Forming a column of Divisions may be executed to the right or left depending on the direction of movement required and the urgency of the situation. The diagrams below show a overview of both evolution's. The following page shows a "blow up" of one division executing a Right Wheel.

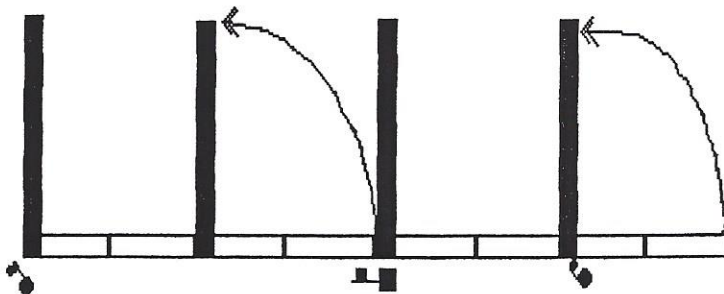
At right is a Battalion of eight companies performing "By Division, Right Wheel, MARCH.

Guide is left. The General Guides of the Bn. and 2nd Sgts. of the left company in each division move to form the left guide line.

By Division, Right Wheel - March



By Division, Left Wheel - March



When forming divisions to the left the 1st Sgt. of the right company is the division right guide and the guide is right while wheeling. The General Guides remain on the left along with the color guard which wheels in place to the left.