

An Explanation of the Procedures for Opening and Closing Ranks During Parade

by

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There is much mystery and misunderstanding about how ranks are opened and closed during parade. This article unveils the mystery and provides understanding about this process. Emphasis is placed upon knowing the guides during the various movements and touches upon understanding the complex social hierarchy which make parade a fascinating subject.

The seemingly complex manoeuvres for opening and closing ranks during parade are broken into small components for easy comprehension. Topics include each of the individual commands from the adjutant plus the duties and expectations of the participants. Closing of ranks with and without inspection of arms is also explored.

Citations are all to Hardee's *Revised Tactics* (Raleigh, 1862), but parallel citations are also included for Casey's (1865) and Gilham's (1861) manuals. Applicable paragraphs from the *Infantry Tactics* and the *Army Regulations* are included at the end of this article. When citing to the School of the Battalion, the author has used the initials, SoB. Similarly, SoC is used for the School of the Company and SoS for the School of the Soldier.

OPENING THE RANKS

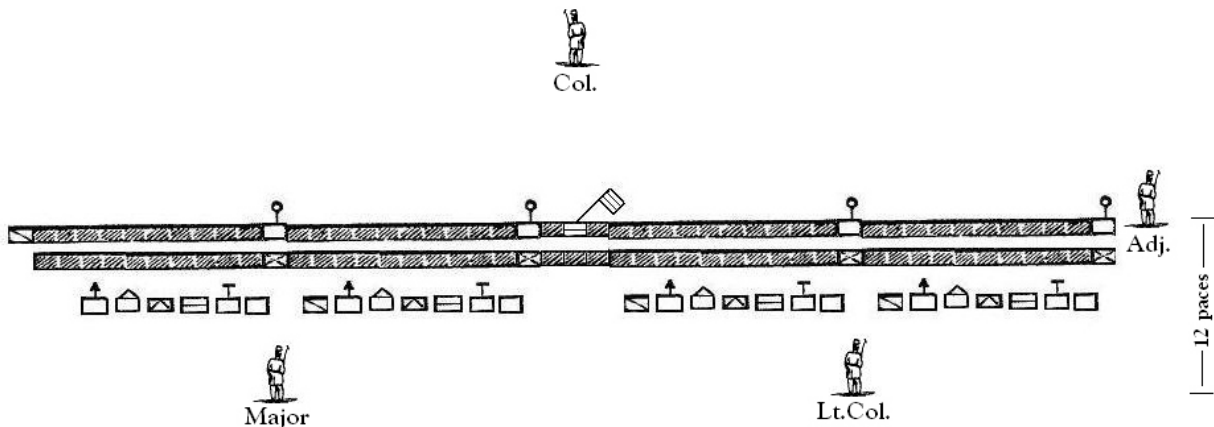


Diagram 1. The ranks of the battalion ready to be opened.

This article commences with a four company battalion already assembled on the parade ground, trooped by the musicians and called to attention by the adjutant as shown in Diagram 1.

The assembly of each company in the battalion is shown in Diagram 2.

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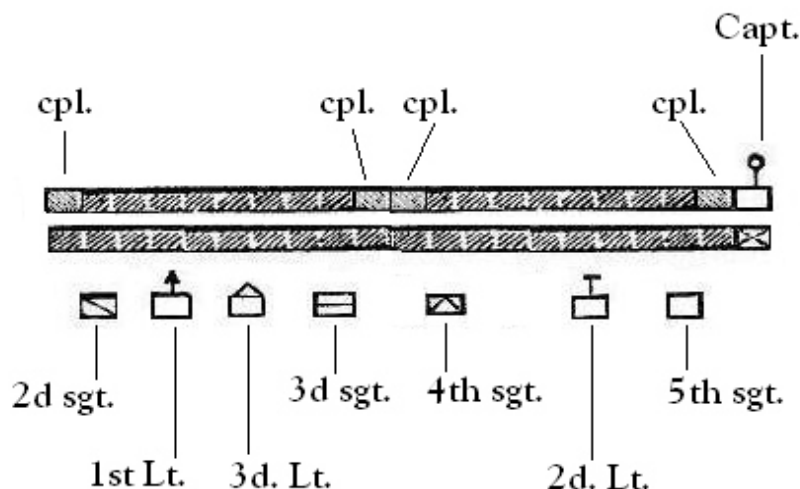


Diagram 2. The ranks within each company before opening.

Note: For Diagrams 1 & 2, the command of *Guides - POSTS* has already been given by the adjutant. This is why the captains of the right wing are posted on the right of their respective companies. During assembly, the right wing captains posted on the left of their respective companies. Below in Diagram 3 is how the battalion appears before guides are posted. Notice how the captain of the first company posts on the right of the color company and how the captain of the third company posts *in the front rank* and *on the left* of the color company. The post for the sergeant of the third company is behind the captain of the second company.

The color captain's initial post is in the front rank and to the left of the colors. When the company opposite the colors arrives - herein the third company - the color captain shifts to the rear rank as the captain of the third company posts in the front rank. If the color captain remained in the front rank and the third captain posted in the rear rank, the men of the third company would either dress upon a captain not their own or dress into the rear rank instead of the front. Both are wrong.

Notice also that the sergeants on the outside of their respective companies act as markers for their respective companies as they arrive onto the battalion line. At *Guides - POSTS*, the

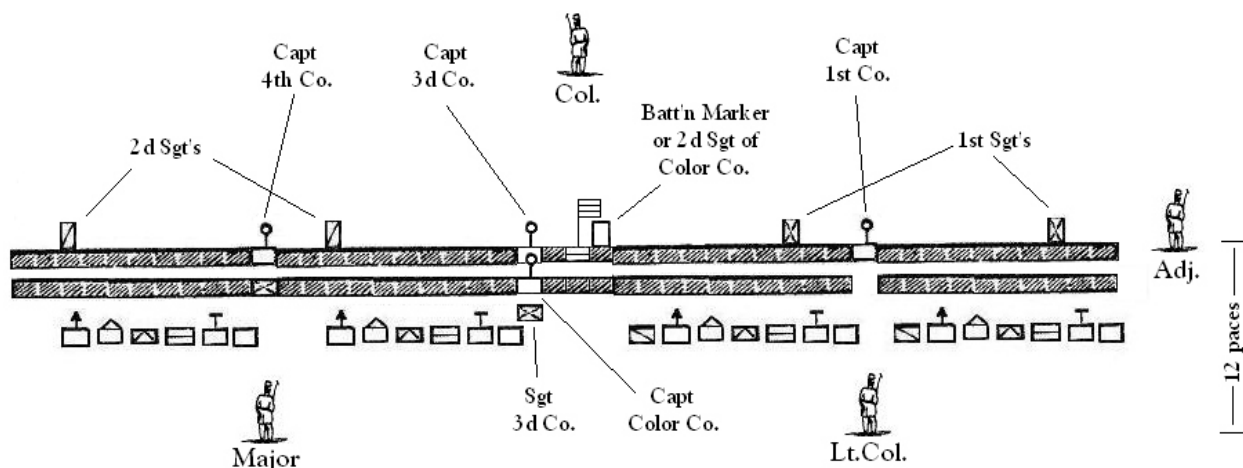


Diagram 3. Assembling the battalion.

sergeants and captains move to the positions noted in Diagrams 1 and 2.

I. THE ADJUTANT'S INCANTATION

Parade is a time honored, solemn ceremony which takes time to perform properly and accurately. The full series of commands from the adjutant is,

1. Prepare to open ranks. 2. To the rear, open order. 3. MARCH. 4. FRONT.

Many adjutants recite the incantation rapidly without realizing that each component in the series creates duties to be performed.

Adjutants should state each command clearly, then wait for the appropriate response before proceeding to the next command in the series. As noted below, the first component in the series is a command for a few, a preparatory for some, and a caution for the rest. The second component is a command for some and a preparatory for the rest. The third component becomes a command for those who have not yet moved, but need to move, during the series. The fourth command completes the manoeuver.

II. THE FIRST COMMAND

To commence the movement per the *Infantry Tactics*, the adjutant commands,

1. Prepare to open ranks.

SoB 23. At this command, the lieutenant colonel and major will place themselves on the right of the battalion, the first on the flank of the file closers, and the second four paces from the front rank of the battalion.

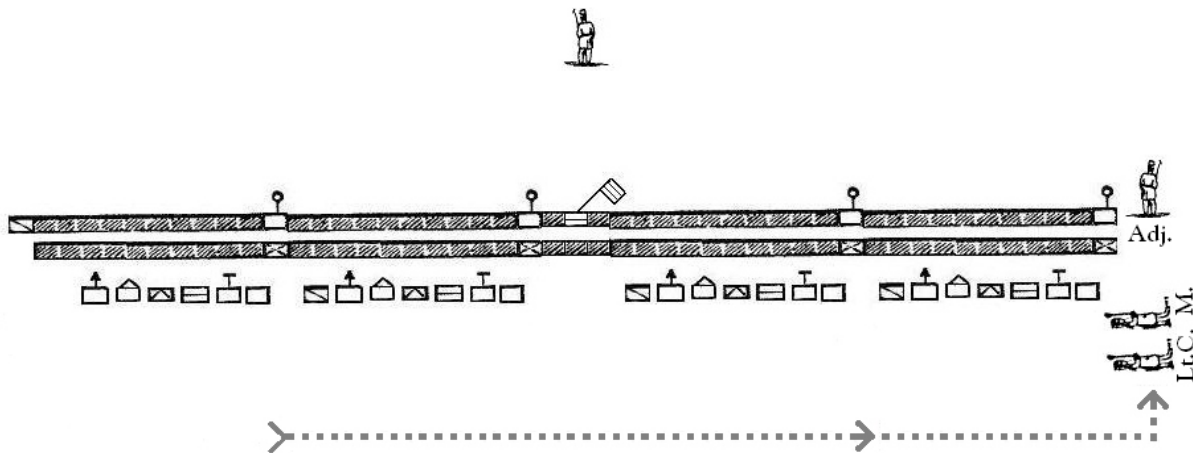


Diagram 4. Field officers move to the right of the battalion.

Casey, SoB 28; Gilham, 298. See, Diagram 4.

As noted below, the major will be tasked with the duty of aligning the rear rank. This is why he places himself on the right and four paces in rear of the front rank. The lieutenant colonel will be tasked with aligning the rank of file closers. The lieutenant colonel places himself two paces behind the major because the file closers form two paces behind the rear rank.

There is a lapse of several seconds from the first command to the second. The reason is that the major's post, before the adjutant commences the movement, is twelve paces behind the rear rank at the center of the left wing of the battalion. It takes time for the major to move from the left center of the battalion to the extreme right.

III. THE SECOND COMMAND

SoB 24. These dispositions being made, the adjutant will command:

2. *To the rear, open order.*

25. At the second command, the covering sergeants, and the sergeant on the left of the battalion, will place themselves four paces in rear of the front rank, and opposite their places in line of battle, in order to mark the new alignment of the rear rank; they will be aligned by the major on the left sergeant of the battalion, who will be careful to place himself exactly four paces in rear of the front rank, and to hold his piece between the eyes, erect and inverted, the better to indicate to the major the direction to be given to the covering sergeants.

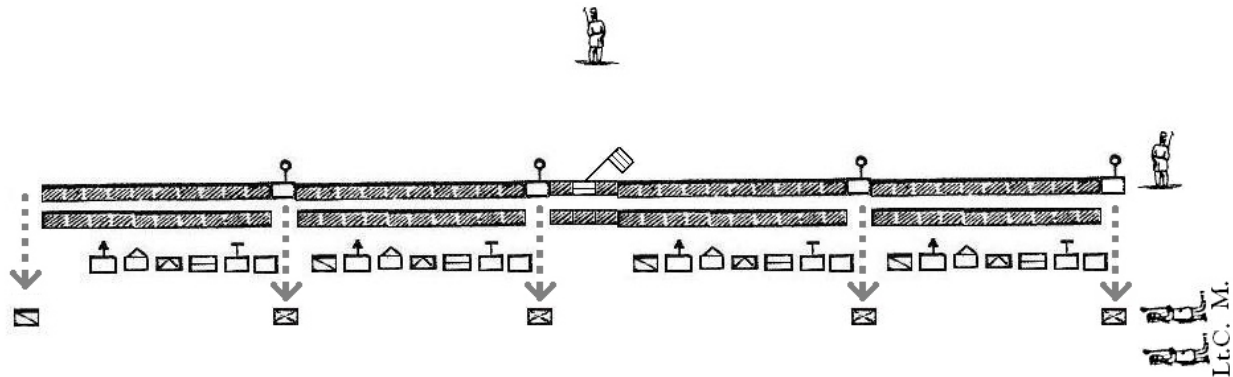


Diagram 5. Sergeants proceed to the rear.

Casey, SoB 29-30; Gilham, 298. See, Diagram 5. With the second sergeant and major four paces behind the front rank, the line of sergeants can be formed quickly, easily and efficiently. Proper alignment of the sergeants encourages a proper alignment of the rear rank.

The guide for the first sergeants is the second sergeant at the extreme left of the battalion. The major can easily see down the long line to the second sergeant and his inverted musket whether the first sergeants are too far forward or back. (The sergeant's lock-plate should be turned *toward* the officer who aligns the rank.) After a visual signal from the major, the adjutant may proceed with the next command.

IV. THE THIRD COMMAND

3. MARCH.

SoB 26. At the command, *march*, the rear rank and the file closers will step to the rear without counting steps; the men will pass a little in rear of the line traced for this rank, halt, and dress forward on the covering sergeants, who will align correctly the men of their respective companies.

Casey, SoB 31; Gilham, 298. See, Diagram 6.

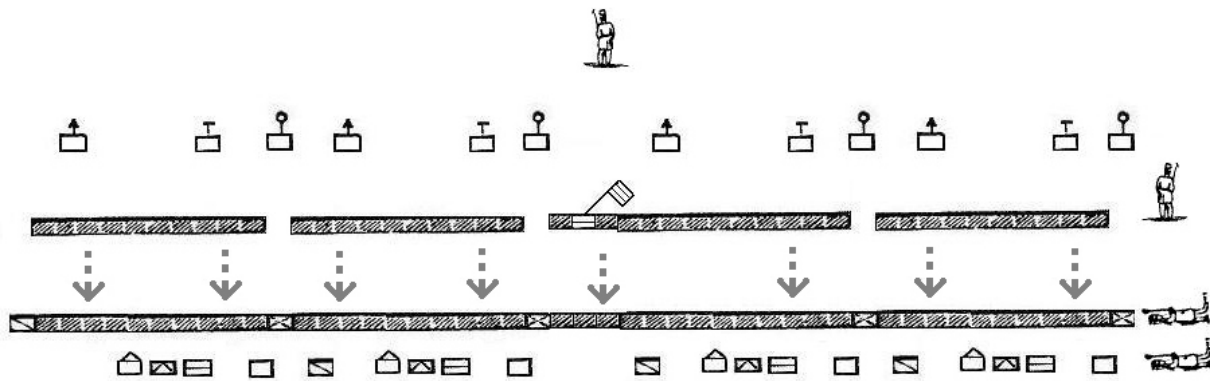


Diagram 6. The rear rank opens order.

Diagram 6 is how the battalion appears after all the tasks in this third command have been performed. Diagrams 7, 8, and 9 are individual illustrations which chart each of the movements necessary to arrive at the above illustration.

At the command, *march*, four distinct things occur. The rear rank steps behind the line of sergeants and dresses to the right upon the line marked by the first sergeants. The rank of file closers steps to the rear, forms a line of file closers, and maintains its distance of two paces from the rear rank. The lieutenants in the rank of file closers move to the rear then relocate themselves to the line of captains four paces forward of the front rank. The captains have the easiest task as they merely step four paces to the front and halt. Each task is considered in the below paragraphs.

A. The Back and Forth Motions of the Rear Rank

In moving to the rear, there is no need for the rear rank to count steps because the line upon which the rank will halt has already been marked by the first sergeants; however, the length of the step remains regulated. The enlisted men step to the rear, *“smartly with the left foot fourteen inches to the rear, reckoning from heel to heel, and so on with the feet in succession.”* Hardee, SoS 247; Casey, SoS 256.

The enlisted men do not halt on the line marked by the first sergeants. Each man in the rear rank goes a step behind the line of sergeants then dresses forward, and to the right, upon the first sergeant of his own company in the manner prescribed by SoS 321 and shown in Diagram 7 (below):

SoS 321. Alignments to the rear will be executed on the same principles, the recruits stopping back a little beyond the line, and then dressing up according to the principles prescribed No. 312.

SoS 312. Each recruit, as designated by his number, will turn the head and eyes to the right as proscribed in the first lesson of the first part, and will march in quick time two paces forward, shortening the last, so as to find himself about six

inches behind the new alignment, which he ought never to pass; he will next move up steadily by steps of two or three inches, the hams extended, to the side of the man next to him on the alignment, so that, without deranging the head, the line of the eyes, or that of the shoulders, he may find himself in the exact line of his neighbor, whose elbow he will lightly touch without opening his own.

(Emphasis added), Casey SoS, 330, 321; Gilham 203, 201.

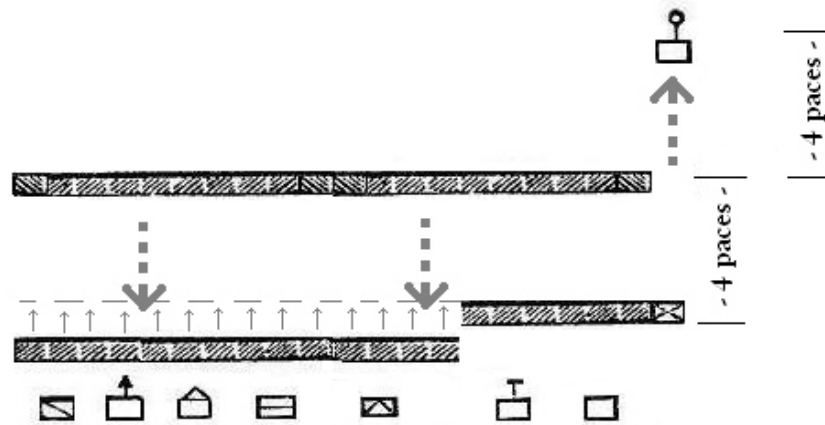


Diagram 7. Rear Rank dresses forward and right onto the line of sergeants.

Hardee and Casey do not specifically state that the rear rank dresses to the right. Both state, “the covering sergeant will align the rear rank on the left guide placed to mark the left of his rank.” Hardee, SoC 13; Casey, SoC 13. The manual which addresses location of dress and alignment in the context of a battalion opening its ranks is Cooper's 1836 manual:

[At the command, MARCH,] The rear-rank and file-closers step off to the rear in common time; the rear-rank passes a little in rear of its new line, halts, dresses to the right, and is aligned by the covering sergeants[.]

(Emphasis added) Cooper, SoB, p. 60.

Gilham seems to contradict things when he wrote, “The covering sergeant will dress the rear rank on the left guide placed to mark the left of this rank.” Gilham, SoC 217. However, Gilham actually conforms to the other manuals.

Hardee/Casey SoC 13: “The covering sergeant will align the rear rank on the left guide.”

Scott's Abstract, SoC 452: “The covering sergeant will align the rear rank on the guide of the left.”

Gilham SoC 217: “The covering sergeant will dress the rear rank on the left guide.”

Despite the grammatical difference in Gilham’s SoC verses Hardee and Casey, the phrasing in Gilham’s SoB is identical to Hardee and Casey. All three state, “The covering sergeants [] will align correctly the men of their respective companies.” Also, this phrasing is similar to the phrasing in Cooper and Scott:

Cooper SoB: “The rear rank [] is aligned by the covering sergeants.”

Scott's Abstract, SoB 827: “the covering sergeants [] will take care to align them correctly in their intervals.”

Scott's Tactics, SoB 796: “The captains will take care that the centre rank be correctly aligned between themselves, and the covering sergeants will give a like attention to the rear rank.”

Gilham’s “align the rear rank on the left guide,” as found in the SoC does not mean dress left. Only Cooper’s SoB addresses the direction the men should dress: “the rear rank [] dresses to the right.” SoB, p. 60. Accordingly, the rear rank should dress to the right, but should be no farther forward nor back than their own first sergeant or the first sergeant in the company to the left.

The consistent principle in all parade alignments has a junior guide on the left of the line and a senior guide on the right. They create a line segment onto which all others will form. See also, the major’s duties as addressed above, and see the lieutenant colonel’s and the senior captain’s duties address below. Here, the first sergeant aligns the rear rank upon a fixed position to the left:

B. The File Closers Lead the Way.

SoB 27. [At the command, MARCH,] The file closers will fall back and preserve the distance of two paces from the rear rank, glancing eyes to the right; the lieutenant colonel will, from the right, align them on the file closer of the left, who, having placed himself accurately two paces from the rear rank, will invert his piece, and hold it up erect between his eyes, the better to be seen by the lieutenant colonel.

Casey, SoB 32; Gilham, 298.

In the same manner that the major aligns the first sergeants upon the left most sergeant of the battalion, the lieutenant colonel aligns the file closers upon the left most file closer who inverts his musket like the left most sergeant of the battalion.

C. Lieutenants on the Move.

With guides on the right and left, the alignment of the rear rank should be speedy. Once set, the lieutenants should repair to the line of captains who are forming a line four paces in front of the front rank. (See below, D. Captains Set the Line.)

But which route should the subalterns take? Only three choices exist: all lieutenants proceed to the right and through the interval of their captain; all to the left and through the interval of the neighboring captain; or a mix of the two. The "all-left" method is merely an option which has no merit because it completely goes against the patterns of movement already discussed herein. The “all-right” and “mixed” methods are now explored.

A strong argument can be made for the "all-right" method. See, Diagram 8. Dom DalBello notes this method in his *Parade, Inspection, and Evolutions of the Battalion*. (Pg. 10; para. 14.) Marching to the right is the same method used by the field officers who proceed, when behind the line of battle, from the left to the right. This method has the lieutenants moving

entirely within the space occupied by their own company. Each faces to the right, marches to and around right of the first sergeant, then proceeds to and through the captain's interval. Two paces from the captain, each lieutenant faces left and marches to the spot opposite their posts in the rear rank. Each faces right and dresses onto the line of officers as explained in Hardee SoS 321.

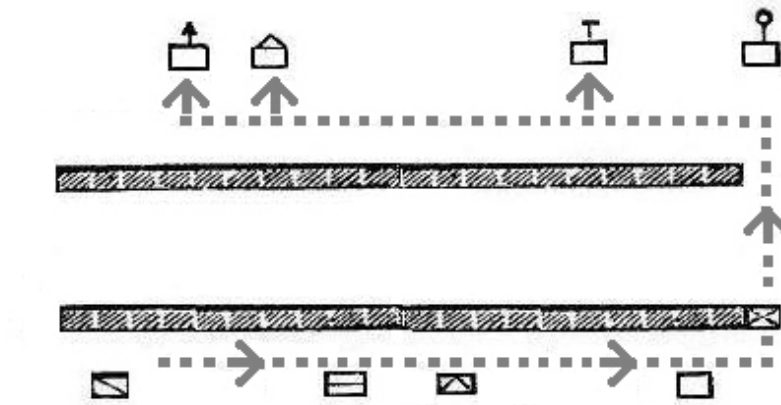


Diagram 8. The “all-right” method.

The “mixed” method is also strong in that it is the quickest method of getting the lieutenants into the rank of officers. See, Diagram 9. The Palmetto Battalion uses this method. The idea that members of one company must only pass through their own interval is not correct because second sergeants frequently pass through the interval of the captain and first sergeant in the left company. Allowing the first lieutenant also to pass in this same interval is an extension of this accepted rule.

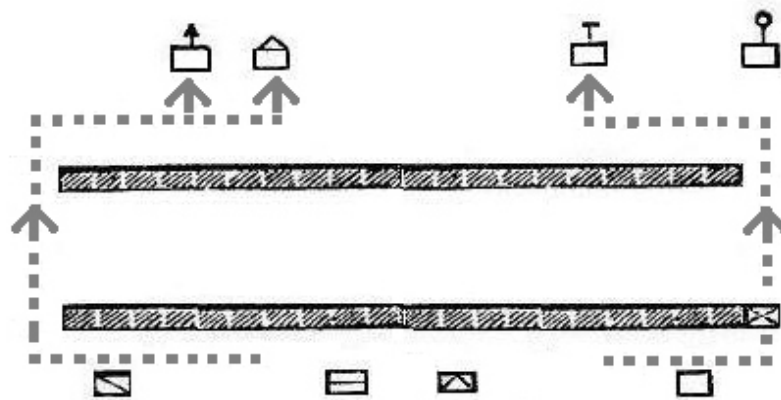


Diagram 9. The “mixed” method.

Which is correct? The tactics stress application of similar methods for similar situations. It is difficult to ignore the principle established by the field officers who proceed from the left to the right as well as having all the officers proceed to the front by the same direction. Accordingly, the author believes that all the lieutenants - be there one, two or three - should use the "all-right" method shown in Diagram 8.

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D. Captains Set the Line.

The captains should align themselves upon the left most captain under the direction of the right most captain. This is the same manner in which the major and lieutenant colonel align the rear and file closer ranks. The first captain directs the line because he is the senior captain of the battalion. See, Part One, Article One of Hardee, para's 1-2; Casey, para's 6-7; Gilham, para. 9. The left most captain is the second most senior captain. By the time the line of captains is set, the lieutenants should be arriving upon the straight line of captains.

Sometimes a company lacks an officer. Reenactors may be inclined to allow a sergeant - as a sergeant - to act as a company commander. They should not. The senior sergeant commanding a company is not an officer and, due to his inferior rank, lacks the privilege of standing in the line of officers. Per the Tactics:

25. Absent officers and sergeants will be replaced - officers by sergeants, and sergeants by corporals. The colonel may detach a first lieutenant from one company to command another, of which both the captain and first lieutenant are absent; but this authority will give no right to a lieutenant to demand to be so detached.

Article One, Section One of the Infantry Tactics; Hardee Revised, 25; Casey 32. This is not found in Gilham.

To comply with period procedure, an officerless company lacks its gentleman and must brevet a lieutenant from the ranks or seek a lieutenant from another company of the battalion.

IV. THE FOURTH COMMAND

**SoB 28. The colonel [adjutant], seeing the ranks aligned, will command:
4. FRONT.**

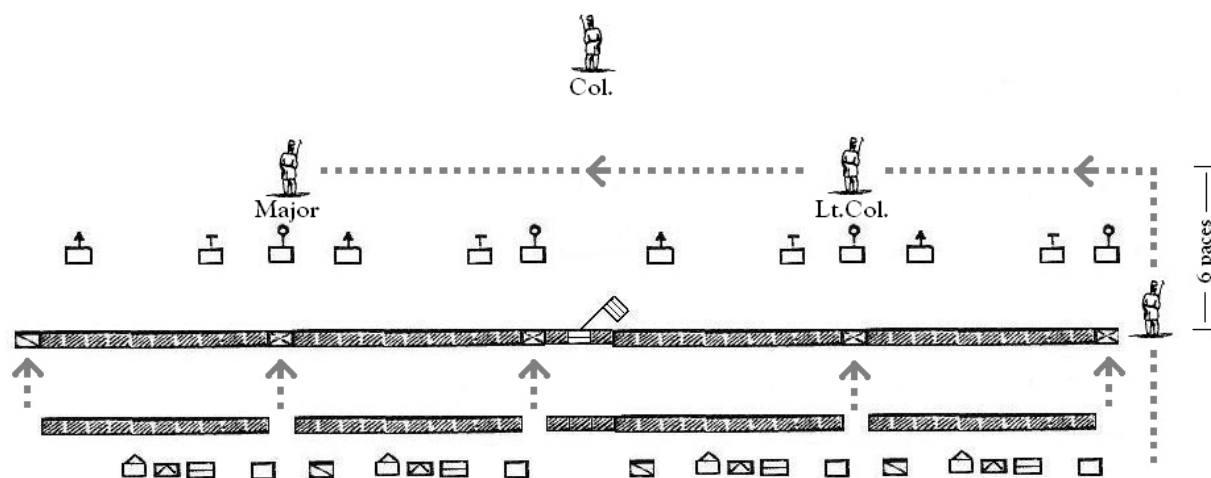
At this command, the lieutenant colonel, major, and the left sergeant, will retake their places in line of battle.

Casey, SoB 33; Gilham, 298. See, Diagram 10 as shown on next page.

Here is the only substantial conflict in what is stated in the schools of the battalion and the army regulations. The commands thus far presented are from the schools of the battalion in the Infantry Tactics. Therein, the field officers repair to their posts after they have aligned the ranks and after the command of *front* has been given. The regulations have the field officers repairing to their posts after the ranks are opened but before the command, *front*, is given:

**C.S. Reg's, para 328. At the sixth command, the ranks will be opened according to the system laid down in the Infantry Tactics, the commissioned officers marching to the front, the company officers four paces, field officers six paces, opposite to their positions in the order of battle, where they will halt and dress. The Adjutant, seeing the ranks aligned, will command,
FRONT!**

See also: U.S. Regulations, para. 341; Gilham, para. 738; Cooper, p. 246.



**Diagram 10. First sergeants proceed to the front rank
and field officers proceed to the front of their respective wings.**

Despite the conflict in this general paragraph from the regulations, the more specific paragraphs in the schools of the battalion have more weight. The clause in the general paragraph, “*the ranks will be opened according to the system laid down in the Infantry Tactics,*” also suggests the specific instructions from the tactics trump the general instructions from the regulations. Accordingly, the field officers on the right of the battalion should take their places at the front and center of their respective wings after the fourth command of front has been given. The major’s post is on the left wing; the lieutenant colonel on the right.

When the field officers repair to their posts, the second sergeant and the first sergeants proceed to the front rank. The second sergeant continues in his capacity as the left guide of the battalion, and the first sergeants cover their captains.

The adjutant walks between the line of officers and enlisted men until he reaches the center of the battalion. He faces right and proceeds to a location eight or ten paces before the colonel. He faces about and orders the battalion to present arms. See, Diagram 11.

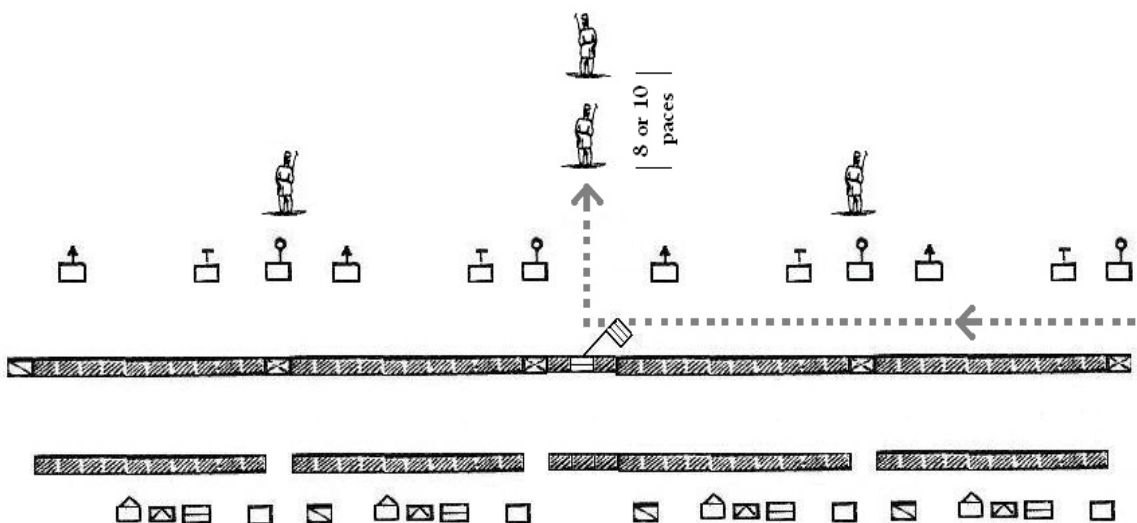


Diagram 11. The adjutant's post when arms are presented.

When ordered to his post by the colonel, the adjutant proceeds by taking a circuitous route around the right and rear of the colonel. His post is one step behind and three steps left of his colonel. See, Diagram 12. When he later presents the orders of the day, he will return to his place at the front and center of the battalion by retracing the circuitous route shown in Diagram 12.

From here, the ceremony of parade continues as noted in the regulations.

V. CLOSING THE RANKS

Closing the ranks is a much more simple task than opening them. Per the *Tactics*,

SoB 29. The colonel will cause the ranks to be closed by the commands prescribed for the instructor in the school of the company, No. 28.

Casey SoB 34; Gilham, 298.

This paragraph from the schools of the company is equally brief:

SoC 28. The manual of arms being ended, the instructor will command:

1. Close order. 2. MARCH.

29. At the command, march, the rear rank will close up in quick time, each man directing himself on his file leader.

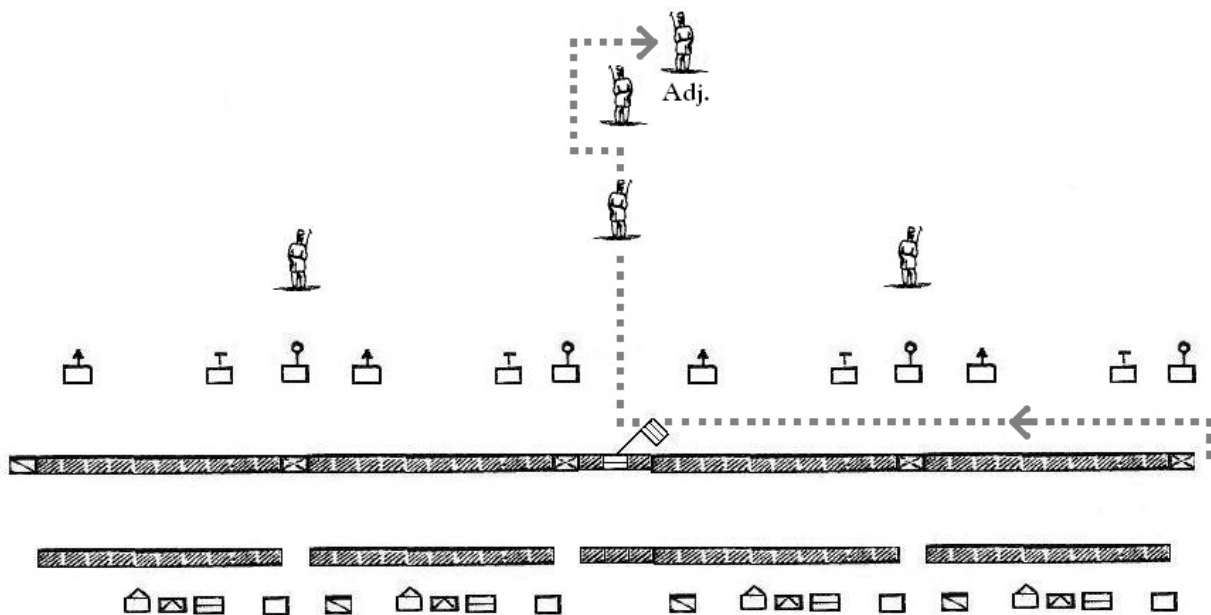


Diagram 12. The adjutant's final post.

Casey, SoC 28-29; Gilham, 220.

The person who orders a closing of the ranks depends upon whether the parade has been dismissed or whether the battalion proceeds to inspection.

A. Parade Is Dismissed.

The timing when the ranks should be closed is odd. After the adjutant publishes the orders, he declares that parade is dismissed. However, the enlisted men remain in place because parade still continues. If parade has been dismissed, why are they still in formation? For the enlisted men, the adjutant's declaration of dismissal means parade will end after the officers have been dismissed by the colonel. Parade for the gentlemen has just ended. Per the regulations:

333. As the officers disperse [from their meeting with the Colonel], the First Sergeants will close the ranks of their respective companies, and march them to the company parades, where they will be dismissed, the band continuing to play until the companies clear the regimental parade.

See also: U.S. Regulations, para. 346; Gilham, para. 738; Cooper, p. 247-48.

Once the first sergeants see the officers parting from the colonel, the first sergeants close ranks and return their men to camp. They close ranks pursuant to the rules in the SoC 28.

B. The Ceremony Continues.

Inspection is not a component of parade, but it often follows parade. Subsequent to inspection, battalion drill often occurs.

Once the orders of the day have been published, the adjutant closes the ranks and causes the officers to return to their proper posts with this one, long command:

1. Prepare to close ranks. 2. Close order. 3. MARCH.

The field and line officers return to their posts via the same routes they took to arrive at the front of the battalion. The field officers proceed around the right of the battalion. The captains directly to their posts in the front rank. The subalterns by the right of their companies and through the interval of their captains and first sergeants.

With the battalion line restored, the colonel may proceed to inspection as detailed in the regulations which are included in the appendix, herein.

VI. CONCLUSION

The difference between an armed mob and a battalion of veteran soldiers is a little knowledge and a little practice of the manoeuvres. When each man knows the guide and the conductor for each line formed, the many lines are formed effortlessly.

Opening and closing ranks by a battalion at parade is a team effort. Each participant need not know by rote memory all the duties to be performed by all the other participants. Each participant must know his individual duties and be familiar with the duties of the other

participants. Pity the poor adjutant who must know all the steps by rote because he conducts parade.

A well run and well performed parade is a thing of beauty to behold. It is also the continued performance of an old, established, military ritual.

APPENDIX

Included below are the lessons from the *Infantry Tactics* and *Army Regulations*. Specifically, the lessons derive from the School of the Battalion per *Hardee's Revised and Improved Tactics*. The text found in the Schools of the Battalion from Casey and Gilham are virtually identical to that found in Hardee.

Similarly, the procedures for dress parade and inspection derive from the Confederate regulations. The author also reviewed text from the U.S. Regulations and text from Gilham's and Cooper's manuals. All are virtually identical to those found in the C.S. Regulations.

OPENING RANKS FROM THE SCHOOL OF THE BATTALION H 22 / C 27 / G 298

PART FIRST.

Opening and closing ranks, and the execution of the different fires.

ARTICLE FIRST.

To open and to close ranks.

22. The colonel, wishing the ranks to be opened, will command:

1. *Prepare to open ranks.*

23. At this command, the lieutenant colonel and major will place themselves on the right of the battalion, the first on the flank of the file closers, and the second four paces from the front rank of the battalion.

24. These dispositions being made, the colonel will command:

2. *To the rear, open order.* 3. MARCH.

25. At the second command, the covering sergeants, and the sergeant on the left of the battalion, will place themselves four paces in rear of the front rank, and opposite their places in line of battle, in order to mark the new alignment of the rear rank; they will be aligned by the major on the left sergeant of the battalion, who will be careful to place himself exactly four paces in rear of the front rank, and to hold his piece between the eyes, erect and inverted, the better to indicate to the major the direction to be given to the covering sergeants.

26. At the command, *march*, the rear rank and the file closers will step to the rear without counting steps; the men will pass a little in rear of the line traced for this rank, halt, and dress forward on the covering sergeants, who will align correctly the men of their respective companies.

27. The file closers will fall back and preserve the distance of two paces from the rear rank, glancing eyes to the right; the lieutenant colonel will, from the right, align them on the file closer of the left, who, having placed himself accurately two paces from the rear rank, will invert his piece, and hold it up erect between his eyes, the better to be seen by the lieutenant colonel.

28. The colonel, seeing the ranks aligned, will command:

4. FRONT.

At this command, the lieutenant colonel, major, and the left sergeant, will retake their places in line of battle.

29. The colonel will cause the ranks to be closed by the commands prescribed for the instructor in the school of the company, No. 28.

ASSEMBLY, PARADE AND INSPECTION

C.S. Reg's 322-335 & 294-313 / US Reg's 337-348 & 307-326 / G 297, 735 & 738

Assembly of the Battalion.

C.S Regulations 324. There shall be daily one dress parade, at Troop or Retreat, as the commanding officer may direct.

325. A signal will be beat or sounded half an hour before troop or retreat, for the music to assemble on the regimental parade, and each company to turn out under arms on its own parade, for roll-call and inspection by its own officers.

326. Ten minutes after that signal, the Adjutant's call will be given, when the Captains will march their companies (the band playing) to the regimental parade, where they take their positions in the order of battle.

Gilham 297. At the signal, called the adjutant's call, the companies are marched from the company parades by their captains, the music playing. The color company serves as the basis of the formation, and is the first to form; the color-guard being at the point where the centre of the line is to rest, one marker is placed in front of it, his elbow touching the right corporal of the color guard, and another on the line at a little less than company distance from him, on his right, and facing towards him; the color company is halted three paces behind this line, faced to the front, and dressed up upon the line by the captain, who aligns it to the left.

The company on the left of the color is the next to take its post; it is halted three paces behind the line, its right nearly behind the left file of the color guard, and faced to the front; as soon as it halts the left guide of the company throws himself out, so as to be opposite one of the three left files of the company, faces to the right, and aligns himself upon the two markers; the captain then places himself on the left of the color guard, on a line with its front rank, and aligns the company to the right. The company on the right of the colors forms next upon the same principles; the right guide posts himself upon the line opposite one of the three right files of the company, and faces to the left; the captain places himself on the right of the color company, and aligns his company to the left.

[C.S Regulations 326.] The remaining companies take their posts on the left and right in succession, and when the formation is complete, the adjutant commands,

Guides - POSTS;

at this command the guides on the line retire to their places by passing through the intervals between the companies, and those captains who are on the left of their companies, shift to the right.

Dress Parade

[C.S Regulations 326.] When the line is formed, the Captain of the first company, on notice from the Adjutant, steps one pace to the front, and gives to his company the command,

"Order - ARMS! Parade - REST!"

which is repeated by each Captain in succession to the left.

C.S. Reg's 322. At the last word of this command, the soldier will carry the right foot six inches in rear of the left heel, the left knee slightly bent, the body upright upon the right leg; the musket resting against the hollow of the right shoulder, the hands crossed in front, the backs of them outward, and the left hand uppermost. At the word,

"Attention!"

the soldier will resume the correct position at ordered arms. In the positions here indicated, the soldier will remain silent and motionless; and it is particularly enjoined upon all officers to cause the commands above given, on the part of tale soldier, to be executed with great briskness and spirit.

323. Officers on all duties under arms are to have their swords drawn, without waiting for any words of command for that purpose.

[C.S Regulations 326.] The Adjutant takes post two paces on the right of the line; the Sergeant-major two paces on the left. The music will be formed in two ranks on the right of the Adjutant. The senior officer present will take the command of the parade, and will take post at a suitable distance in front, opposite the centre, facing the line.

327. When the companies have ordered arms, the Adjutant will order the music to beat off, when it will commence on the right, beat in front of the line to the left, and back to its place on the right.

328. When the music has ceased, the Adjutant will step two paces to the front, face to the left, and command,

1. *Attention!* 2. *Battalion.* 3. *Shoulder - ARMS!*
4. *Prepare to open ranks!* 5. *To the rear, open order!* 6. *MARCH!*

At the sixth command, the ranks will be opened according to the system laid down in the Infantry Tactics, the commissioned officers marching to the front, the company officers four paces, field officers six paces, opposite to their positions in the order of battle, where they will halt and dress. The Adjutant, seeing the ranks aligned, will command,

FRONT!

and march along the front to the centre, face to the right, and pass the line of company officers eight or ten paces, where he will come to the right-about, and command,

Present - ARMS!

when arms will be presented, officers saluting.

329. Seeing this executed, he will face about to the commanding officer, salute, and report,

"Sir, the parade is formed."

The Adjutant will then, on intimation to that effect, take his station three paces on the left of the commanding officer, one pace retired, passing round his rear.

330. The commanding officer, having acknowledged the salute of the line by touching his hat, will, after the Adjutant has taken his post draw his sword, and command,

1. *Battalion.* 2. *Shoulder - ARMS!*

and add such exercises as he may think proper, concluding with

Order - ARMS!

then return his sword, and direct the Adjutant to receive the reports.

331. The Adjutant will now pass round the right of the commanding officer, advance upon the line, halt midway between him and the line of company officers, and command,

1. *First Sergeants, to the front and centre.* 2. *MARCH!*

At the first command, they will shoulder arms as Sergeants, march two paces to the front, and face inward. At the second command, they will march to the centre, and halt. The Adjutant will then order,

1. *Front* - FACE. 2. *Report*.

At the last word, each in succession, beginning on the right, will salute by bringing the left hand smartly across the breast to the right shoulder, and report the result of the roll-call previously made on the company parade.

332. The Adjutant again commands,

1. *First Sergeants, outward* - FACE! 2. *To your posts* - MARCH!

when they will resume their places, and order arms. The Adjutant will now face to the commanding officer, salute, report absent officers, and give the result of the First Sergeants' reports. The commanding officer will next direct the orders to be read, when the Adjutant will face about and announce,

Attention to Orders.

He will then read the orders.

First Alternative: Parade Is Dismissed.

333. The orders having been read, the Adjutant will face to the commanding officer, salute, and report; when, on an intimation from the commander, he will face again to the line, and announce,

Parade is dismissed.

All the officers will now return their swords, face inward, and close on the Adjutant, he having taken position in their line, the field officers on the flanks. The Adjutant commands,

1. *Front* - FACE! 2. *Forward* - MARCH!

when they will march forward, dressing on the centre, the music playing, and when within six paces of the commander, the Adjutant will give the word,

Halt!

The officers will then salute the commanding officer by raising the hand to the cap, and there remain until he shall have communicated to them such instructions as he may have to give, or intimates that the ceremony is finished. As the officers disperse, the First Sergeants will close the ranks of their respective companies, and march them to the company parades, where they will be dismissed, the band continuing to play until the companies clear the regimental parade.

334. All field and company officers and men will be present at dress parades, unless especially excused, or on some duty incompatible with such attendance.

335. A dress parade once a day will not be dispensed with, except on extraordinary and urgent occasions.

Second Alternative: Inspection Follows Parade

The orders having been read, the Adjutant will face to the commanding officer, salute, and report; when, on an intimation from the commander, he will face again to the line, and announce,

1. *Prepare to close ranks.* 2. *Close order.* 3. MARCH.

The ranks will close and the officers will return to their posts.

C.S Regulations 294. The battalion being in the order of battle, the Colonel will cause it to break into open column of companies, right in front. He will next order the ranks to be opened, when the color rank and color-guard, under the direction of the Adjutant, will take post ten paces in front, and the band two paces in rear of the column.

295. The Colonel, seeing the ranks aligned, will command,

1. *Officers and Sergeants to the front of your companies.* 2. MARCH!

The officers will form themselves in one rank, eight paces, and the noncommissioned officers in one rank, six paces, in advance, along the whole fronts of their respective companies, from right to left, in the order of seniority; the pioneers and music of each company, in one rank, two paces behind the non-commissioned officers.

296. The Colonel will next command,

Field and staff, to the front - MARCH!

The commissioned officers thus designated will form themselves in one rank, on a line equal to the front of the column, six paces in front of the colors, from right to left, in the order of seniority; and the non-commissioned staff, in a similar manner, two paces in rear of the preceding rank. The Colonel, seeing the movement executed, will take post on the right of the Lieutenant-Colonel, and wait the approach of the inspecting officer, but such of the field officers as may be superior in rank to the Inspector will not take post in front of the battalion.

297. The Inspector will commence in front. After inspecting the dress and general appearance of the field and commissioned staff under arms, the Inspector, accompanied by these officers, will pass down the open column, looking at every rank in front and rear.

298. The Colonel will now command,

1. *Order Arms.* 2. *REST!*

when the Inspector will proceed to make a minute inspection of the several ranks or divisions, in succession, commencing in front.

299. As the Inspector approaches the non-commissioned staff, colors rank, the color-guard, and the band, the Adjutant will give the necessary orders for the inspection of arms, boxes, and knapsacks. The colors will be planted firm in the ground, to enable the color-bearers to display the contents of their knapsacks. The non-commissioned staff may be dismissed as soon as inspected; but the color-rank and color-guard will remain until the colors are to be escorted to the place from which they were taken.

300. As the Inspector successively approaches the companies, the Captains will command,

1. *Attention.* 2. *Company.* 3. *Inspection - ARMS!*

The inspecting officer will then go through the whole company, and minutely inspect the arms, accoutrements, and dress of each soldier. After this is done, the Captain will command,

Open - BOXES!

when the ammunition and the boxes will be examined.

301. The Captain will then command,

1. *Shoulder - ARMS!* 2. *Close order.* 3. *MARCH!* 4. *Order - ARMS!* 5. *Stack - ARMS!*

6. *To the rear, open order.* 7. *MARCH!* 8. *Front rank - About - FACE.*

9. *Unslung - KNAPSACKS.* 10. *Open - KNAPSACKS.*

302. The Sergeants will face inward at the 2d command, and close upon the centre at the 3d, and stack their arms at the 5th command; at the 6th command, they face outward, and resume their positions at the 7th. When the ranks are closed, preparatory to take arms, the Sergeants will also close upon the centre, and at the word, take their arms and resume their places.

303. The knapsacks will be placed at the feet of the men, the flaps from them, with the greatcoats on the flaps, and the knapsacks leaning on the great-coats. In this position the Inspector will examine their contents, or so many of them as he may think necessary, commencing with the non-commissioned officers, the men standing at attention.

304. When the Inspector has passed through the company, the Captain will command,

Repack - Knapsacks;

when each soldier will repack and buckle up his knapsack, leaving it on the ground, the number

upward, turned from him, and then stand at rest.

305. The Captain will then command,

1. *Attention*. 2. *Company*. 3. *Sling - Knapsacks*.

At the word, *sling*, each soldier will take his knapsack, holding it by the inner straps, and stand erect; at the last word he will replace it on his back. The Captain will continue,

4. *Front rank - About - FACE!* 5. *Close order*. 6. *MARCH!* 7. *Take - ARMS!*

8. *Shoulder - ARMS!* 9. *Officers and Sergeants, to your posts*. 10. *MARCH!*

and will cause the company to file off to their tents or quarters, except the company that is to reescort the colors, which will await the further orders of the Colonel.

306. In an extensive column, some of the rearmost companies may, after the inspection of dress and general appearance, be permitted to stack arms until just before the Inspector approaches them, when they will be directed to take arms and resume their position.

307. The inspection of the troops being ended, the field and staff will next accompany the Inspector to the hospital, magazine, arsenal, quarters, sutler's shop, guard house, and such other places as he may think proper to inspect. The Captains and subalterns repair to their companies and sections to await the Inspector.

313. The inspection of cavalry and artillery will conform to the principles laid down in the foregoing paragraphs, regard being had to the system of instruction for those arms of service respectively.

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