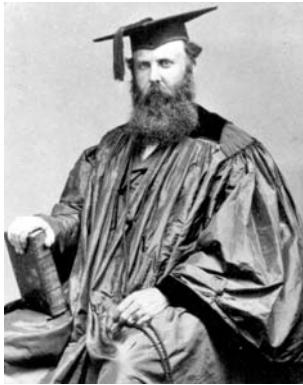


"Military Notes and Queries" from *The United States Service Magazine*

By Mark D. Jaeger



One of the finest, albeit short-lived, American periodicals published during the Civil War was the *United States Service Magazine* (hereafter referred to as *USSM*). Two distinguished personages edited this monthly journal during its short life (January 1864 to June 1866): Professor Captain Henry Coppée (whose ca. 1866 image appears at left) and Colonel Richard B. Irwin.¹

The content of *USSM* was eclectic in that Coppée and Irwin not only ensured that military-related articles and official War Department orders were published, as might be expected, but also incorporated literary, poetic, artistic, and scientific pieces into each monthly issue. Indeed, one notable literary contributor was none other than Louisa May Alcott, of *Little Women* fame. Particularly under Professor Coppée's aegis, *USSM* was quickly recognized in both military and civilian circles for its dedication to excellence. This, in turn, helped *USSM* acquire a level of influence far greater than its official circulation might have suggested. The *Nation* magazine, for its part, declared in September 1865 *USSM* to be "one of the most valuable results of the war."²

Despite this enviable record, relatively few Civil War living historians are familiar with *USSM* and even fewer are acquainted with the "Military Notes and Queries" section that was irregularly published in *USSM* between May 1864 and May 1865. "MN&Q" was, simply put, a sort of "Dear Abby" advice column addressing queries about various aspects of military drill, ceremonies, customs, and courtesies. Of particular interest to us, as living historians, is the fact that questions were not only submitted from interested citizens but were also contributed by officers and enlisted men needing guidance out in the field.

The queries shown below range from the arcane to the amusing; more importantly, the "Military Notes and Queries" columns are interesting and instructive if for no other reason than they clearly show there was no little amount of debate among troops during the Civil War over what precisely constituted the "correct way" to perform certain evolutions, military courtesies, or aspects of guard duty. Furthermore, "MN&Q" firmly establishes that the relatively glacial rate of change in drill and tactics during the Civil War era was *not* attributable to a lack of bright ideas from the lower echelons.

Accordingly, except for one significant deletion in the November 1864 column noted below, as well as minor editing and footnoting for clarity, all of the "MN&Q" columns originally printed in *USSM* appear *verbatim* and are, to this writer's knowledge, together "under one roof" for the first time. This writer has also attempted, whenever possible, to specifically identify some of the individuals who posed questions to "MN&Q" so as to put a "human face" on the individuals who sought guidance from *USSM*. Additional comments and observations, regarding the original questions about drill and guard duty, are also offered by Dom Dal Bello, Army of the Pacific, and are incorporated into the endnotes.

May 1864

MILITARY NOTES AND QUERIES.

[*Officers are requested to contribute to this new and interesting department of the Magazine.*]

1. The battalion being in line of battle with closed ranks, after the termination of a parade or march, when do commissioned officers return their swords?—at the order the “parade is dismissed,” whilst standing in their places in line, or *after* stepping four paces to the front, and *before* facing inward to close on the centre?

2. How should regiments salute when one receives another?

3. Is the method of forming square “forward on the centre” (Casey, vol. ii, par. 1106) the simplest and best, or has any other method superior advantages?—*H. H., Brooklyn, N. Y.*

1. After a march or parade, not of ceremony, the battalion is usually informally dismissed. If quarters are already provided for the troops, the several companies may be conducted to them either by their officers or sergeants,—generally by the latter. Officers are at liberty to return their swords immediately on the announcement of the dismissal [sic] of the battalion, if their duties have ceased. The order is “parade is dismissed” is only given when the ceremony of a *dress parade* is terminated, at which time all the officers (field and line) return their swords, face inward, &c. When the ranks are opened, but not until then, company officers advance four paces, and field-officers six paces (in a dress parade), opposite to their places in the order of battle.

2. The colonel of the receiving regiment having his command in line so that it shall be on the *right* of the route which the other regiment is to take, the latter moves in column, right in front, and when its head is within six paces of the left of the line on its right, the first or receiving regiment presents arms, and so continues until the rear of the column has passed the right of the line. The column passes at *shouldered arms*, each officer saluting as soon as he comes within six paces of the left of the line. When the rear of the column has passed some twenty-five or thirty paces beyond the right of the line, the column is brought into line, on the same side as the first regiment. The first regiment now breaks into column, right in front, and marches by the second, receiving the same honors which it gave. After marching by, it may be formed again into line as at first, when both regiments may be brought to an order, the officers advancing and being presented; or the first regiment, still in column, may halt until the second has reformed column, when both resume the march, the leading regiment serving as an escort for the other.

3. The method of forming square, forward on the centre companies, from line of battle, is very simple and good, and, so far as the final position of the companies is concerned, identical with the square formed from the battalion first ployed into double column. It has also the merit of being more expeditious than any mode prescribed for forming square from line of battle. But if a battalion be already in column of divisions at half distance, there can be nothing simpler than to form square by wheeling the interior divisions right and left into line, and advancing the last division.

What is the object of forming “division columns” as prescribed in Casey’s Tactics, vol. ii. par. 908? Is the formation used by any of the regiments in the service of the United States?—*E. A., 1st Conn Light Battery, Folly Island, S. C.*³

The formation of “division columns” has been recently introduced into our system of tactics, from the French. Since the system prepared by General Scott,—also based upon the French,—great improvements have been made for manœuvring infantry troops, principally by increasing the celerity of their movements, by causing the various battalion manœuvres to be executed without halting, and by doubling the files when marching by a flank. The system popularly known as Hardee’s, and the authorized United States Infantry Tactics of 1861, are condensed translations from the French. No reference, however, is made in either of them to “division columns.” The formation has been adapted to a battalion of ten companies, such as is now in use. The object is partial concentration, which is to admit of very rapid deployment. In a battalion of eight companies, the first and fourth division columns, being commanded by a lieutenant-colonel and the major respectively, can, in case the line of division columns attacks or receives the attack of the enemy, be detached to assail his flanks, while the second and third divisions deploy. The suggestion of advantage—which will be found in par. 981—must be taken for what it is worth. Some of the regiments in the service of the United States are instructed in the manœuvre; but whether it has ever been employed on the field of battle we are unable to say.

July 1864

MILITARY NOTES AND QUERIES.

[Officers are requested to contribute to this department.]

Questions.—1. In what direction does a sentinel face, when “facing to the proper front” as prescribed in paragraph 423 Revised United States Army Regulations?

2. Does a sentinel salute an officer who passes him, by bringing his left hand to his musket as high as his right shoulder only when he is in his sentry-box, or does he so salute under other circumstances?

*J. L., 128th Ohio Volunteers, Camp Cleveland, Ohio.*⁴

Answers.—1. A sentinel on any one of the four sides of a camp will face outward, or, if before the colonel’s tent, will face towards the color-line, and will stand at *shouldered arms*, when an officer in uniform approaches him, unless the officer be a general, a field officer, the officer of the day, or the commanding officer of the post, to any of whom he will *present arms*. At all other times a sentinel is required to carry his arms at support, or on either shoulder, unless in wet weather, when he will secure arms, if there be no sentry-box.⁵

2. A sentinel only salutes, when he is in sentry-box, by standing at *attention*, and by bringing his left hand to his musket as high as his right shoulder.⁶

Question.—Being in *double column* and changing direction by the *right flank*, should the subdivisions be aligned by the left or by the right?

G., Brooklyn, N.Y.

Answer.—A battalion, in double column, closed in mass, being at a halt, changes direction according to the principles prescribed for a simple column by division. If a simple column by division is right in front, the alignment, after a change of direction, either by the right

or left flank, is towards *the guide*, or by the left. In the case of a double column, the alignment will also be towards the guide or by the right, as a double column habitually takes the guide to the right, though sometimes to the left and sometimes to the centre of the column.

August 1864

MILITARY NOTES AND QUERIES.

[*Officers are requested to contribute to this department.*]

ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Near DALLAS, GA., June 3, 1864.

In your May [1864] number the question is asked, "What is the object of forming division columns?" *Your* answer covers *one* of the objects; another, and an essential one (as it supplies what to me has seemed an omission in all the tactical works I have seen) is this,—the affording, *by order*, of a passage for a broken regiment through a supporting line.

By this movement, one-half, in alternate companies, of the supporting line is in position, with guns bearing, and the other companies in shape to at once move to place as soon as the retreating line has passed. Generally the retreat of the advanced line carries away with it more or less of the second line, as no way is suggested other than this of making a path for it.

I suggest another method of forming square from line of battle, superior in some respects to that of "Forward on centre." It is done by the following commands:--

1. *To the rear, form square.*
2. *Wings, without doubling, inward face.*
3. *To the rear into line—MARCH.*

At the second command, the third division stands fast; the first and second, and the fourth and fifth, respectively, face inwards.

At the third command, the right companies throw forward their right shoulder, and the left companies the left. At the command *March*, the rear-rank man on the left of the second division moves obliquely to the left three paces, and, turning to the right, places himself with his left shoulder against the back of the rear-rank man in the first file of the third division, the front-rank man making the same movement, turning as his covering-file does, and placing his shoulder against the covering-sergeant of the third division. Commencing thus a line at right angles and to the rear of the third division, the file next to the left on the second division will execute the same movement simultaneously with the left file, and so on along the whole line, dressing by the left as they come in, except the first company, which will march by the flank by the nearest line, so as to form the rear of the square,—file-closers passing to the front; and the captain halting his own person as soon as he reaches the right flank of the second company, directing his company's march by him until it meets the tenth company coming from the other flank; he will then halt, and face the company to the left. The left wing will move inversely in the same manner, turning to the left. Directions as to file-closers and officers will be as in all other square formations. The square will be reduced as by Casey's "Forward on centre."

The advantages over the formation in Casey are—

First, You form *on* your line of battle, and, when resolved into line again, are in original position.

Second, Your centre division can keep up its fire during the formation.

Third, The square being a defensive movement, you gain in time over “Forward on Centre” in this, that you do not move towards the enemy, as by Casey.

Fourth, Your third division standing fast, gives a *fixed base*; while in the other the whole regiment moves at once, and, of course, is liable to be more or less shaken.

The commands *also* might be as follows:--

1. *To the rear, form square.*
2. *Without doubling, wings inward face.*
3. *Wings into line and to the right about—MARCH.*

The movements would then be precisely the same as within described.

10th Illinois.⁷

September 1864

MILITARY NOTES AND QUERIES.

HEAD-QUARTERS, ROCK ISLAND BARRACKS,
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS, July 18, 1864.⁸

To the Editor of the “United States Service Magazine.”

SIR: --In the military “Notes and Queries” of your valuable book for July [1864], you state (in answering a question as to a sentinel’s proper front) “that a sentinel on any one of the four sides of a camp will face outward.” Now, a sentinel on the parapet of a prison, if he should face outward, would turn his back on what he is guarding, and a rebel prisoner could throw a missile at the said sentinel and knock him down, or commit any other violence, owing to the sentinel’s back being turned. Please tell me (Ques.), In what direction does a sentinel face when facing to the proper front, the sentinel being on the parapet of a prison-enclosure? Please omit name, and believe me,

R. J.

November 1864

[A very lengthy and interesting proposal, submitted by “H. E. K.,” for the creation of reinforced infantry companies originally printed here has been deleted due to *Watchdog* space limitations but is available from Mr. Jaeger upon written request.]

Questions.—1. Are troops drawn up for inspection supposed to have their *bayonets unfixed*, and at the command “Inspection—Arms!” to *fix bayonets* and spring rammers? and when the inspecting officer has passed to the third man from the one inspected, is that man supposed to *unfix bayonet* and return rammer?⁹

2. Are troops to be drawn up for *dress parade* on all occasions with bayonets unfixed while using the *rifled musket*?

3. Is it proper to *stack arms* with the *rammers* while using the rifled musket?

A. B. C., *Camp Burnside, Ky.*¹⁰

Answers.—1. Troops are usually drawn up with *fixed* bayonets. If they happen to be unfixed, they should be fixed at the command “Inspection—Arms!” but not unfixed again when the inspector has passed and the rammer returned.

2. At dress parade the bayonets should be *fixed* with the rifled as with the ordinary musket.

3. Arms should be stacked in all cases with the *bayonet*; it injures the rammers. Of course, with the *rifle* which has no bayonet the rammers must be used.

Questions.—1. When a company is doing escort duty at a funeral, and marching by platoons *left in front*, do the officers march in front of the platoons, or behind them?

2. Is it allowable for a colonel or officer commanding a regiment to appoint a lieutenant as ordnance officer, who make take the entire responsibility of the ordnance of the regiment, and thus relieve the commanding officer of that duty, just as the quartermaster does in his department?

B., *Hartford[, Ct.]*

Answers.—1. In front.

2. The colonel cannot shift the responsibility. There is no ordnance officer of a regiment known to the law, as there is a regimental quartermaster. If the colonel appoints one on *special duty*, the colonel is responsible for his acts.

March 1865

MILITARY NOTES AND QUERIES.

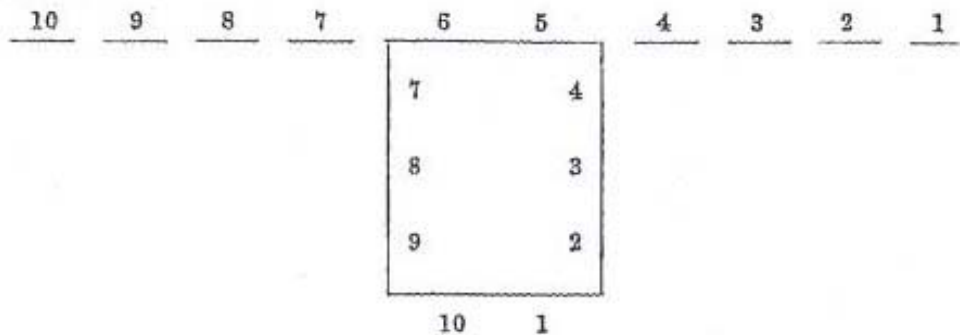
S. L. H., Vicksburg.—“Through what interval does the rear-rank man aim in firing to the left oblique? *Answer.*—Over the left shoulder of the man in front of him.¹¹”

E. R. H., Sacramento, Cal.—“In loading a piece of artillery, when does No. 3 leave the vent, after sponging the piece, or after the cartridge is rammed home?”
Answer.—After sponging.

May 1865

MILITARY NOTES AND QUERIES.

YOUR correspondent, “10th ILLINOIS,” from the Army of the Cumberland proposes, in your August [1864] number, a method of forming square to the rear from line of battle. This method seems to expect too much individual action from the soldiers of a majority of the companies of the regiment. I propose the following method as better:



Let the commands be, *To the rear, on Third Division, form square.* At this command, the chief of Third Division will cause it to stand fast. The captains of companies 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9 face them to the rear; 1 and 10 are faced inwards by the flank. At the command, *March,* of the colonel, 4 and 7 wheel and form perpendicularly to ends of Third Division; 2, 3, 8, 9 make a half wheel, and then march forward till they come near their places in the square when they are dressed upon the lines of 4 and 7; 1 and 10 march by the flank to their places to form the rear face of the square, the file-closers of these companies passing inside the square. The lines for 4, 3, and 2, and for 7, 8, and 9, should be established by the guides of those companies throwing themselves out in advance of their companies, and being placed by the lieutenant-colonel and major.

WEST POINT.

Comment.—(From a distinguished Correspondent and Tactician.)—There would be no particular necessity for forming square forward on the centre, unless imminently pressed by cavalry, and if so pressed, the moral effect of facing about, back to the enemy, would be bad.

This, together with the greater intricacy of the movement is sufficient to reject the proposed method.¹²

In answer to our California correspondent, J. W. McK.'s inquiries, we should state:--

I. Bayonet should be unfixed after the inspecting officer has passed, in accordance with paragraph 239, page 60, Vol. I., Casey's Tactics.

II. The following is in the manner of posting the companies of a regiment:--¹³

	R	*						L
Ten companies	1 . 6 . 4 . 9 . 3 . 8 . 5 . 10 . 7 . 2							
Nine companies	1 . 6 . 1 . 8* . 3 . 7 . 5 . 9 . 2							
Eight companies	1 . 5 . 4 . 8* . 3 . 7 . 6 . 2							
Seven companies	1 . 5 . 3* . 6 . 4 . 7 . 2							
Six companies	1 . 4 . 3* . 6 . 5 . 2							
Five companies	1 . 4* . 3 . 5 . 2							
Four companies	1 . 3 . 4 . 2							
Three companies	1 . 3 . 2							
Two companies	1 . 2							
One company	1							

The star signifies
color-company.

III. At a military funeral, the music should be at the head of the column.

Editor U.S. Service Magazine:

SIR: I read with interest your answers to the questions of "J. L., 128th Ohio Vols.," in the "Military Notes and Queries" of the MAGAZINE for July [1864], and have since been waiting with the expectation that some other person would offer further comments upon those questions that have proved so puzzling to many volunteer officers. Permit me to ask for the authority for the rules you lay down in answer to the queries of "J. L." You make no distinction in your rules, between salutes made during the daytime and after sunset; but it is noticeable that the "facing to the proper front," concerning which "J. L." inquires, is prescribed only *after sunset*, and then not as a salute, but only as a mark of *attention*, showing that the sentry is attending properly to his duties. Under the rule that a sentinel, on any one of the four sides of a camp, shall face outward and present arms, when a general or field officer approaches, if the officer approached from within the camp, the sentinel would be presenting arms to an officer behind his back; or rather would be committing the glaring impoliteness of turning his back to the officer he is required to salute, and then gravely presenting arms to nothing! which is hardly consonant with the customary *courtesy* required of all officers and soldiers toward their superiors. In the salutes prescribed in paragraphs 256 and 257, the inferior is required to direct his attention in a respectful manner towards his superior. In paragraph 248, salutes to officers who pass in the rear of a guard, are prohibited. Is there any good reason why the salute of a single sentry should be made in a like respectful and courteous manner, toward the officer saluted? It is very clear, from paragraphs 251 and 423, that no salutes are paid after retreat, and therefore the "facing to the proper front," required by paragraph 423, is prescribed only between *retreat* and *veille*.

I understand the second question of "J. L." to be this: "Does the last sentence of paragraph 420, requiring sentinels to 'carry arms' to all officers below field officers, include the

usual salute with the left hand brought to the shoulder, or not?" The inference from the language of that paragraph is, that the sentinel should stand at shouldered arms; but the common practice in the volunteer army is otherwise. This practice is doubtless derived from the requirements as to salutes in other cases. Indeed, it is hardly consistent that the single sentry should simply carry arms to a line officer, when walking on a beat; because the same sentry, if in a sentry-box, would salute the same officer by raising the left hand; and if not a sentry, but simply a soldier under arms, and not on duty, he would offer the same salute under paragraph 255. From these facts has originated the custom of interpreting the language of paragraph 420, "carry arms," to mean "carry arms and salute as a sergeant."

If you or your contributors will give more extended opinions upon these subjects with references to authorities, it will, I think, be a great aid to many inquiring volunteer officers.

INSPECTOR.

MEMPHIS, TENN.

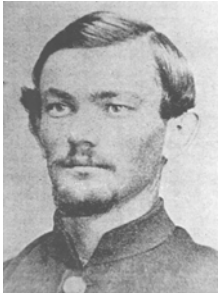
Editor's Note: "INSPECTOR's" call for more opinions, regarding the rendering of honors by sentinels, was apparently never answered as no further "MN&Q" columns appeared after May 1865. Why Professor Coppée elected not to continue "MN&Q" is a mystery; however, we may reasonably suppose that Federal victory, and the end of the war, largely obviated further need for it.

The assistance of Dom Dal Bello, *Army of the Pacific*, Randy Ubben, *R. Ubben Pipes*, and Ilhan Citak, *Special Collections, Lehigh University Libraries*, during the preparation of this article is gratefully acknowledged.

¹ Over the course of his long and distinguished academic career, Professor Captain Henry Coppée (1821-1895, USMA Class of 1845) authored several military works including *Field Manual of Evolution of the Line* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1862), *The Field Manual for Battalion Drill* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1862), and *Field Manual of Courts-Martial* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1863). In January 1866, having been appointed as the first president of Lehigh University, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Coppée turned over his *USSM* editorial duties to Lieutenant Colonel Richard B. Irwin (ca. 1840-1892) who himself had seen extensive service as a staff officer in the Western Theater. Irwin remained in the editor's chair until *USSM* was "mustered out" in June 1866. See Heitman, Francis B., comp. *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, Vol 1*. Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1903, p. 327 and 565. A lengthy biography for Coppée can be viewed at <http://www.famousamericans.net/henrycoppée/>

The circa 1866 image of Henry Coppée is courtesy of Special Collections, Lehigh University Libraries.

² Mott, Frank Luther. *A History of American Magazines*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of the Harvard University Press, 1938 (reprinted 1967), p. 550.



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“E. A.” was most likely Private *Eugene Atwater* who, at the time of his enlistment into the 1st Connecticut Light Artillery Battery, on 23 October 1861, was aged 19, single, a “mechanic,” and hailed from Plymouth, Connecticut. From June 1863 until 18 April 1864, Atwater’s artillery unit was engaged in “Siege operations against Forts Wagner and Gregg, Morris Island and against Fort Sumter and Charleston, S.C., from Folly Island” at which time it transferred from Folly Island, South Carolina back to Gloucester Point, Virginia, arriving there on 23 April. Accordingly, Private Atwater must have mailed his query to the *USSM* shortly before he redeployed back to Virginia, along with his battery, to eventually join Major General Benj. F. Butler’s Army of the James.

Eugene Atwater completed his term of service with the 1st Connecticut LAB and mustered out on 2 November 1864 but quickly secured a commission, on 2 December 1864, and rejoined the war effort as First Lieutenant of Company E, 6th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, formally mustering on 23 December 1864. Atwater seems to have displayed considerable aptitude and pluck as an officer: On 13 February 1865, less than a month after the 6th Connecticut took part in the assault on Fort Fisher, North Carolina, he was reassigned to Company D as its Captain.

The 6th Connecticut remained in North Carolina for the remainder of the war and, after several months of minor skirmishing and garrison duty, Captain Atwater returned to New Haven, Connecticut with his regiment and mustered out for good on 21 August 1865. See *Dyer’s Compendium* entry at *The Civil War Archive: Union Regimental Histories* at: <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unctarty.htm#1stlt>. Beecher, Herbert W. *History of the First Light Battery, Connecticut Volunteers, 1861-1865*. 2 Vols. New York: A. T. De La Mare, 1901, p. 20, 326. *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion*. Hartford, CT: Case, Lockwood, Brainard, 1889, p. 270, 273. The circa 1865 image of Eugene Atwater is courtesy of United States Army Center of Military History, RG98S-CWP41.1 and was drawn from an original photograph published in *History of the Town of Plymouth, Connecticut* (Atwater, Francis. Meriden CT: Journal Publishing Company, 1895).

⁴ At least 17 officers and men of the 128th Ohio Volunteer Infantry had the initials “J. L.” but the two most likely inquirers were either Sergeant Joel L. Little, of Company I, or, more probably, Captain John Lewis of Company K. Sergeant Little, aged 27 at the time of his enlistment on 16 December 1863, was subsequently appointed First Sergeant of Company I, on 2 April 1865, and mustered out 13 July 1865. Captain Lewis, aged only 21 at the time of his commissioning on 29 December 1863, remained commander of Company K until he was mustered out on 13 July 1865. Refer to Foraker, J. B., Robinson, J. S. and Axline, H. A., comps. *Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1866*, Vol. VIII, 110th-140th Regiments-Infantry. Cincinnati OH: The Ohio Valley Press, 1888, p. 492-524.

The unit in which Little and Lewis served, the 128th OVI, was initially named “Hoffman's Battalion of Infantry,” in honor of U. S. Commissary-General of Prisoners Lieutenant Colonel William Hoffman (who, ironically, had been a POW himself for several months after his surrender to pro-Confederate Texans in February 1861), and was organized throughout Fall and Winter 1861. Except for a brief 1862 foray into Western Virginia, the battalion primarily performed prison guard duty at Johnson’s Island POW Camp, Sandusky, Ohio. In January 1864, six additional companies were incorporated into the battalion and it was re-designated the 128th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The 128th remained on prison guard duty until it was mustered out at Camp Chase, Ohio in July 1865. See <http://www.aztecclub.com/bios/hoffman.htm>, <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unohinf9.htm>, <http://www.sandusky.lib.oh.us/follettpages/JIhoffman128.htm>, and <http://www.ohiocivilwar.com/cw128.html>.

⁵ *Dom Dal Bello*: “The phrase ‘face outward’ certainly refers to the direction of an approaching officer to be honored by a sentinel in *camp* or *garrison*. However, as evident in later letters to “MN&Q,” that while *J.L.*, *128th Ohio*’s question was answered, there was further confusion. This includes prison guard *R.J.*’s question (Sept. 1864) about facing away from the prison yard to salute (which does not seem to be answered by “MN&Q”), and INSPECTOR’s comments (May 1865) concerning the absurdity of ‘facing outward’ even when the officer approaches from within the camp, as well as the differences between paying proper attention during night and day. The further questions also point to the fact that short answers are not always enough, and that there is always another question to follow.

I propose that *R.J.*’s question about the prison guard on the prison parapet should properly be answered: No salute is necessary. The sentinel’s duty on the prison parapet is akin to the picket’s on the line, his main job being to watch “the enemy” at his front. In this sense, the prison guard’s duty is not the same as a sentinel of the *camp* or *police guard*.

To some, INSPECTOR may seem too nit-picky... it seems obvious that a sentinel should not face away from the officer. Perhaps a better response to *J.L.* would have been ‘face towards the officer.’ Then again, ‘facing outward’ is the direction sentinels would face when posted at the door of a building, fort, etc., and a camp is but ‘quarters’ without walls.”

⁶ *Dom Dal Bello*: “INSPECTOR links *Carry Arms* to *Shouldered Arms*. This should put to rest any confusion as to what ‘the carry’ is understood to be!”

⁷ This individual remains unidentified. However, given his familiarity with battalion drill, he was undoubtedly either a company-grade or regimental staff officer of the 10th Illinois Veteran Volunteer Infantry writing during a lull in the Atlanta Campaign. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcivilw/history/010.htm>

⁸ The specific identity of the writer is uncertain; however, he was clearly an enlisted prison guard at the Rock Island POW Camp. Perhaps not coincidentally an individual with the initials “R. J.,” one “Robert Jewell” of Company G, 133rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was definitely posted at Rock Island when this letter was submitted to the *USSM*. Between December 1863 and July 1865, over 12,000 Confederate POWs were interned at Rock Island and nearly 2,000 of

them (as well as 171 of their guards) died there from various causes. In later years, Rock Island was frequently, and somewhat unfairly, termed the “Andersonville of the North.” This misappellation continued to the point where even the fictional, star-crossed Major Ashley Wilkes, of *Gone with the Wind* fame, was “incarcerated” there by his creator, *GWTW* author Margaret Mitchell. For information about Rock Island POW Camp see:

http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilrockis/plac_hist/hist-cp.htm

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/rockislandhistory/Prison.htm>

⁹ Oddly, and contrary to what was asserted by “A. B. C.,” no known provision was made in *Scott, Hardee, Gilham, USI&RT, Casey*, or even in the *United States Army Regulations* for men, drawn up for inspection, to wait until “the inspecting officer has passed to the third man from the one inspected.” Each of the aforementioned drill manuals merely repeat, with slight variations, *Scott SoS*, Para. 255, “When the instructor shall have passed him, each recruit will retake the position prescribed at the command *inspection of arms*, and return the rammer; after which he faces to the front.” The *Army Regulations*, Para. 313, is even more vague in simply stating that inspecting officers performing regimental inspections “go through the whole company, and minutely inspect the arms, accoutrements, and dress of each soldier” after which troops are then commanded to *Open*—BOXES!

The origin for the “third man” custom is unknown but the soldier’s inquiry does show that it was being practiced in some Federal units by 1864. Whether the “third man” custom was simply something that was locally devised and spread because it “looked good,” or whether it was drawn from an actual drill manual, remains to be determined.

¹⁰ Camp Burnside was established in 1863 at Point Isabel (now Burnside), Pulaski County, Kentucky (nine miles south of Somerset) as a rendezvous and supply base for General A. E. Burnside’s prelude to the East Tennessee Campaign.

<http://www.oriscus.com/khs/countysearch.asp?county=Pulaski>

¹¹ There has been a long-running debate regarding precisely over *which* of the file-leader’s shoulders one should place their piece when firing at the left oblique. Right or left? The response given in “MN&Q” is as authoritative as one could hope for and certainly indicates that firing over the *left* shoulder was carried over from *Scott’s Tactics* into subsequent drill manuals in “deed,” if not actual “word.” For additional discussion and debate about firing at the left oblique, see Blakely, J. “Firing by the Left Oblique,” *The Watchdog*, Summer 2002 and Ruley, James M., “Left Oblique Response,” *The Watchdog*, Fall 2002.

¹² The exact identity of the “distinguished Correspondent and Tactician” is not stated but, given Professor Coppée’s connections and expertise, the evaluator could have easily been Brigadier General Silas Casey or even Coppée himself.

¹³ *Dom Dal Bello*: The “MN&Q” illustration varies considerably from that displayed in Emory Upton’s 1874 drill manual, which I consulted while writing “PIE.”

Order of Captain Seniority, Left to Right
*Color Company

Left	UPTON	Right	Left	MN&Q	Right
		2..3..1			2..3..1
		2..4..3..1			2..4..3..1
	2..4..5..3*.1			2..5..3..4*.1	
	2..5..6..3*.4..1			2..5..6..3*.4..1	
	2..4..7..6..3*.5..1			2..7..4..6..3*.5..1	
	2..6..8..4..3*.7..5..1			2..6..7..3..8*.4..5..1	
	2..4..8..9..5..3*.7..6..1			2..9..5..7..3..8*.4..6..1	
	2..7..10..5..8..3*.9..4..6..1			2..7..10..5..8..3*.9..4..6..1	

There are several “rules of thumb” for the companies to be organized:

- The Senior (1st) Captain commands the right company, the position of honor; the 2nd Captain the leftmost company, the second post of honor; and the 3rd Captain commands the right center company (the company to the right of center), which is the Color Company, the third post of honor.
- Seniormost captains should command the divisions, being more experienced.
- In an odd-company battalion, the 2nd Captain’s company constitutes a division by itself.
- There is no display of colors with less than five companies.

From the above table, we observe the following:

- Upton *always* has the 3rd Captain commanding “the right center company, or color company” (Upton). By doing this, when there are only five companies, he violates the “rule” that the seniormost captains command the divisions (the 4th Captain commands a division, and not the 3rd Captain). However, *in all other cases*, the seniormost captains command the divisions. Note that with an odd number of companies, Upton always places the 4th Captain to the right of the 2nd.
- MN&Q *always* has the seniormost captains command each division, with the senior captain in each division always being on the right, except for the leftmost division (as in the 10-company formation). Unfortunately, with this set up, the 3rd Captain is stripped of his rightful honor of commanding the Color Company in three cases: for five-, eight- and nine- company battalions.

For more details refer to Upton, Emory. *Infantry Tactics, Double and Single Rank, Adapted to American Topography and Improved Fire-Arms, Revised Edition*. New York: Appleton, 1874, p. 150.