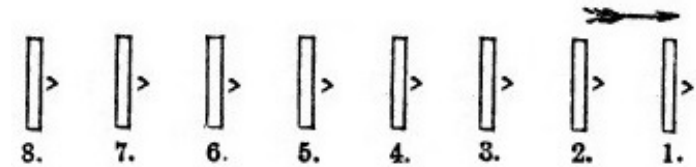


Col. J.H. Witherspoon's

Card
of
Evolutions
for
Drill and Review
for the
Eighth South Carolina Reserves,
at
Camden,
20th and 21st Oct., 1862

As compiled by
Mark Silas Tackitt,
Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels



161. When the colonel shall wish to put the column in march, he will indicate to the leading guide two distinct objects in front, on the line which the guide ought to follow. This guide will immediately put his shoulders in a square with that line, take the more distant object as the point of direction, and the nearer one as the intermediate point.

162. If only a single prominent object present itself in the direction the guide has to follow, he will face to it as before, and immediately endeavor to catch on the ground some intermediate point, by which to give steadiness to his march on the point of direction.

163. There being no prominent object to serve as the point of direction, the colonel will dispatch the lieutenant colonel or adjutant to place himself forty paces in advance, facing the column, and by a sign of the sword establish him on the direction he may wish to give to the leading guide ; that officer being thus placed, this guide will take him as the point of direction, conforming himself to what is prescribed, SoC 87, by :

— taking two points on the ground in the straight line which would pass between his own and the heels of the lieutenant colonel or adjutant.

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

1. *Column, forward.*
2. *Guide left (or right).*
3. *MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).*

165. At the command, *march*, briskly repeated by the chiefs of subdivision, the column will put itself in march, conforming to what is prescribed, SoC 200 and following.

SoC 200. The leading guide will observe, with the greatest precision, the length and cadence of the step, and maintain the direction of his march by the means prescribed, SoC 89, by :

— marching on the two points he has chosen ;
— taking in succession, and always a little before arriving at the point nearest to him, new points in advance, exactly in the same line with

the first two, and at the distance of some, fifteen or twenty paces from each other.

201. The following guide will march exactly in the trace of the leading one, preserving between the latter and himself a distance precisely equal to the front of his platoon, and marching in the same step with the leading guide.

202. If the following guide lose his distance from the one leading, (which can only happen by his own fault, he will correct himself by slightly lengthening or shortening a few steps, in order that there may not be sudden quickenings or slackenings in the march of his platoon.

203. If the same guide, having neglected to march exactly in the trace of the preceding one, find himself sensibly out of the direction, he will remedy this fault by advancing more or less the shoulder opposite to the true direction, and thus, in a few steps, insensibly regain it, without the inconvenience of the oblique step, which would cause a loss of distance. In all cases, each chief of platoon will cause it to conform to the movements of its guide.

SoB 166. The leading guide may always maintain himself correctly on the direction by keeping steadily in view the two points indicated to him, or chosen by himself ; if these points have a certain elevation, he may be assured he is on the true direction, when the nearer masks the more distant point.

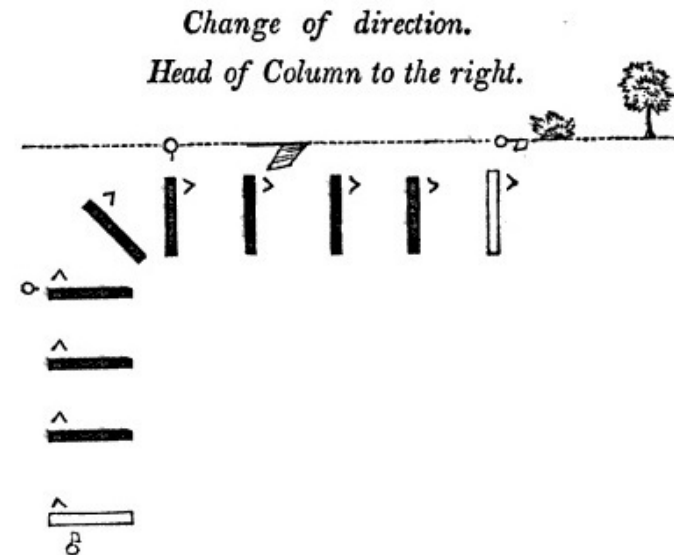
167. The following guides will preserve with exactness both step and distance ; each will march in the trace of the guide who immediately precedes him, without occupying himself with the general direction.

168. The lieutenant colonel will hold himself, habitually, abreast with the leading guide, to see that he does not deviate from the direction, and will observe, also, that the next guide marches exactly in the trace of the first.

169. The major will generally be abreast with the last subdivision; he will see that each guide marches exactly in the trace of the one immediately preceding ; if either deviate from the direction, the major will promptly rectify the error, and prevent its becoming propagated ; but he need not interfere, in this way, unless the deviation has become sensible, or material.

TO CHANGE DIRECTION IN COLUMN AT FULL DISTANCE.

Head of column to the right, page 55.



The general guide, at the head of the column, will direct himself on the two points which will be indicated to him on the line of battle, without regulating himself upon the march of the column.

Concept : Changing direction of column to the right

Performed by : Individual companies wheeling at a designated location.

Nuance : Guide remains on left.

SoB 231. The column being in march [at full distance, right in front and] in the cadenced step, when the colonel shall wish to cause it to change direction [to the right], he will go to the point [on the left] at which the change ought to be commenced, and establish a marker there, presenting the breast to the flank of the column ; this marker, no matter to which side the change of direction is to be made, will be posted on the opposite side, and he will remain in position till the last subdivision of the battalion shall have passed. The leading subdivision being [greater than four paces] of the marker, the colonel will command :

Head of column to the [right].

SoB 232 / SoC 213. At this, the chief of the leading subdivision will immediately take the guide on the side opposite the change of direction if not already there. This guide will direct [his march on the marker so that, in passing, his left arm may just] graze the breast of the marker ; [at the distance of four paces from the marker], his chief will command :

1. *Right wheel,*

and instant the guide shall have arrived opposite the marker, his chief will command :

2. MARCH.

At the second command, the subdivision will wheel to the right conforming to what is prescribed in the SoS 396 :

– the man conducting the flank, at the moment of commencing the wheel, casting his eyes over the ground over which he will have to pass, taking steps of twenty-eight inches ; advancing a little the left shoulder from the first step ; casting his eyes from time to time along the rank, and feeling constantly the elbow of the next man lightly, but never pushing him ;

– the ranks turning the head a little to the left and fixing the eyes on the line of the eyes of the men to their left ; and each conforming himself to the marching flank – shortening his step according to his approximation to the pivot ;

– the touch of the elbow will remain towards the marching flank (or side of the guide) instead of the side of the actual pivot ;

– the man next to the guide feeling lightly the elbow of the next man towards the pivot and resisting pressure coming from that side ;

– the middle of the ranks bending slightly to the rear with the instructor being watchful that the centre does not break ;

– the pivot-man conforming himself to the movement of the marching flank, instead of merely turning in his place, by feeling lightly the elbow of the next man, by taking steps of full nine inches and thus gaining ground forward in describing a small curve so as to clear the point of the wheel.

SoC 216. The wheel being finished, the chief of each subdivision will command :

3. *Forward.*

4. MARCH.

SoS 398. The third command will be pronounced when four paces are yet required to complete the change of direction.

399. At the command, *march*, which will be given at the instant of completing the wheel, the man who conducts the marching flank will direct himself straight forward taking points on the ground in the new direction,

in order the better to regulate the march ; the pivot-man and all the rank will retake the step of twenty-eight inches, and bring the head direct to the front.

SoC 218. The second subdivision will continue to march straight forward till up with the marker, when it will wheel to the right, and retake the direct march by the same commands and the same means which governed the first subdivision.

SoB 234. The colonel will carefully see that the guide of each subdivision, in wheeling, does not throw himself without or within, but passes over all the points of the arc of the circle, which he ought to describe.

235. As often as no distinct object presents itself in the new direction, the lieutenant colonel will place himself upon it in advance, at the distance of thirty or forty paces from the marker, and be assured in this direction by the colonel ; the leading guide will take, the moment he shall have changed direction, two points on the ground in the straight line which, drawn from himself, would pass between the heels of the lieutenant colonel, taking, afterwards, new points as he advances.

236. The major will see that the guides direct themselves on the marker posted at the point of change, so as to graze his breast.

237. If the column be composed of several battalions, the lieutenant colonel of the second, will cause the marker of the first battalion, to be replaced as soon as the last subdivision of this battalion shall have passed; this disposition will be observed by battalion after battalion, to the rear of the column.

Head of column to the left, page 52.

Concept : Changing direction of column to the left

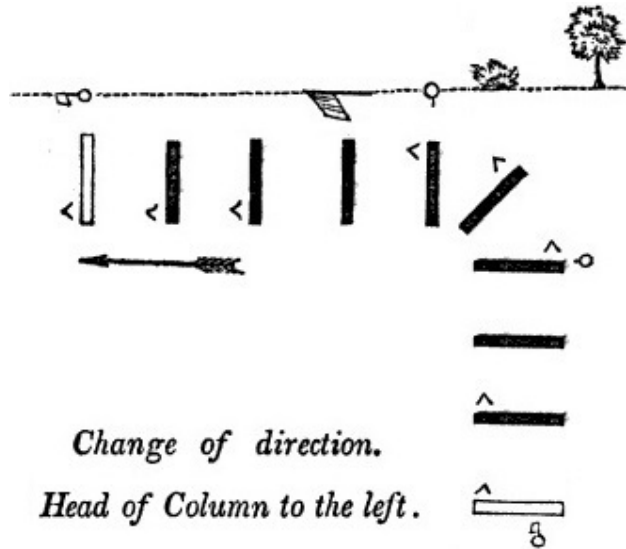
Performed by : Individual companies wheel at a designated location

Nuance : Guide shifts from left to the side opposite the wheel (to the right) then returns to the left after completing the wheel

SoC 220. The change of direction to the left will then be executed according to the same principles as the change of direction to the right, but by inverse means.

[SoB 231.] The leading subdivision being [greater than four paces] of the marker, the colonel will command :

Head of column to the left.



[SoB 232 / SoC 213.] At this, the chief of the leading subdivision will immediately take the guide on the [right] if not already there. [At the distance of four paces from the marker], his chief will command :

1. *Left wheel,*

and instant the guide shall have arrived opposite the marker, his chief will command :

2. MARCH.

At the second command, the subdivision will wheel to the left conforming to what is prescribed [for *Head of Column to the Right* in SoB 232].

SoC 216. The wheel being finished, the chief of each subdivision will command :

3. *Forward.*

4. *Guide left.*

5. MARCH.

SoS 398. The third and fourth commands will be pronounced when four paces are yet required to complete the change of direction.

399. At the command, *march*, which will be given at the instant of completing the wheel, the man who conducts the marching flank will direct himself straight forward taking points on the ground in the new direction, in order the better to regulate the march ; the pivot-man and all the rank will retake the step of twenty-eight inches, and bring the head direct to the front.

Remarks.

SoC 225. It is highly important, in order to preserve distances and the direction, that all the subdivisions of the column should change direction precisely at the point where the leading subdivision changed ; it is for this reason that that point ought to be marked in advance, and that it is prescribed that the guides direct their march on the marker, also that each chief of subdivision shall not cause the change to commence till the guide of his subdivision has grazed the breast of this marker.

226. Each chief will take care that his subdivision arrives at the point of change in a square with the line of direction ; with this view, he will face to his subdivision when the one which precedes has commenced to turn or to wheel, and he will be watchful that it continues to march squarely until it arrives at the point where the change of direction is to commence.

227. If, in changes of direction, the pivot of the subdivision which wheels should not clear the wheeling point, the next subdivision would be arrested and distances lost ; for the guide who conducts the marching flank having to describe an arc, in length about a half greater than the front of the subdivision, the second subdivision would be already up with the wheeling point, whilst the first which wheels has yet the half of its front to execute, and hence would be obliged to mark time until that half be executed. It is therefore prescribed, that the pivot of each subdivision should take steps of nine or eleven inches in length, according to the swiftness of the gait, in order not to arrest the march of the next subdivision. The chiefs of subdivision will look well to the step of the pivot, and cause his step to be lengthened or shortened as may be judged necessary. By the nature of this movement, the centre of each subdivision will bend a little to the rear.

228. The guides will never alter the length or the cadence of the step, whether the change of direction be to the side of the guide or to the opposite side.

SoB 238. The deeper the column, the more rigorously ought these principles to be observed; because, a fault that would be but slight in a column of a single battalion, would cause much embarrassment in one of great depth.

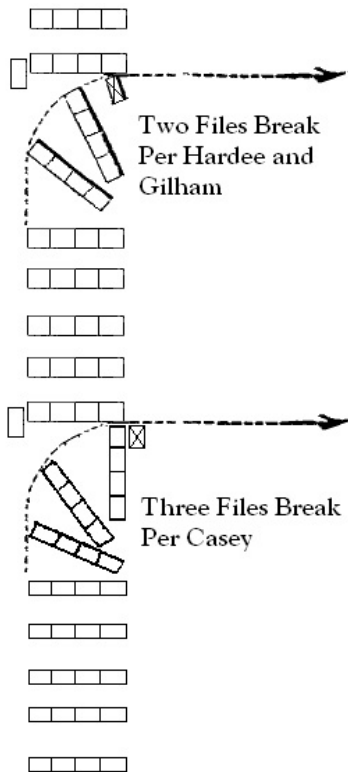
**4. BY THE RIGHT OF COMPANIES
TO THE REAR INTO COLUMN, PAGE 23.**



Concept : Line into column.
Performed by : Flanking and filing.
Nuance : Breaking files.

SoB 87. When the colonel shall wish to cause the battalion to break to the rear, by the right, into column by company, he will command

1. *By the right of companies to the rear into column.*
2. *Battalion right – FACE.*
3. *MARCH (or double quick – MARCH).*



88. At the first command, each captain will place himself before the centre of his company, and caution it to face to the right ; the covering sergeants will step into the front rank.

89. At the second command, the battalion will face to the right ; each captain will hasten to the right of his company, and break two files to the rear ; the first will break the whole depth of the two ranks ; the second file less ; which being executed, the captain will place himself so that his breast may touch lightly the left arm of the front rank man of the last file in the company next on the right of his own. The captain of the right company will place himself as if there were a company on his right, and will align himself on the other captains. The covering sergeant of each company will break to the rear with the right files, and place himself before the front rank of the first file, to conduct him.

90. At the command, *march*, the first file of each company will wheel to the right ; the covering sergeant, placed before this file, will conduct it perpendicularly to the rear. The other files will come successively to wheel on the same spot. The captains will stand fast, see their companies file past, and at the instant the last file shall have wheeled, each captain will command :

1. *Such company.*
2. *HALT.*
3. *FRONT.*
4. *Left – DRESS.*

91. At the instant the company faces to the front, its left guide will place himself so that his left arm may touch lightly the breast of his captain.

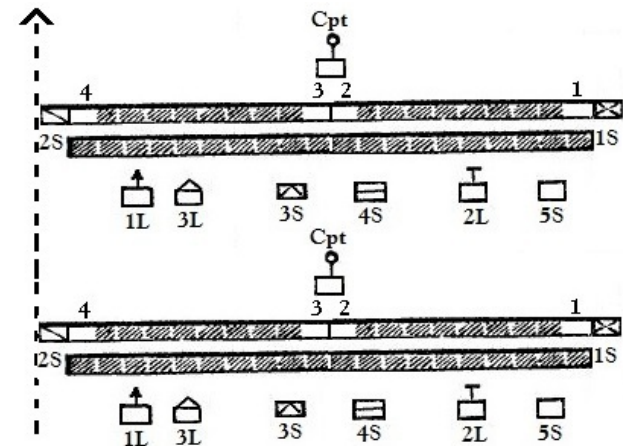
92. At the fourth command, the company will align itself on its left guide, the captain so directing it, that the new alignment may be perpendicular to that which the company had occupied line of battle, and, the better to judge this, he will step back two paces from the flank.

93. The company being aligned, the captain will command :

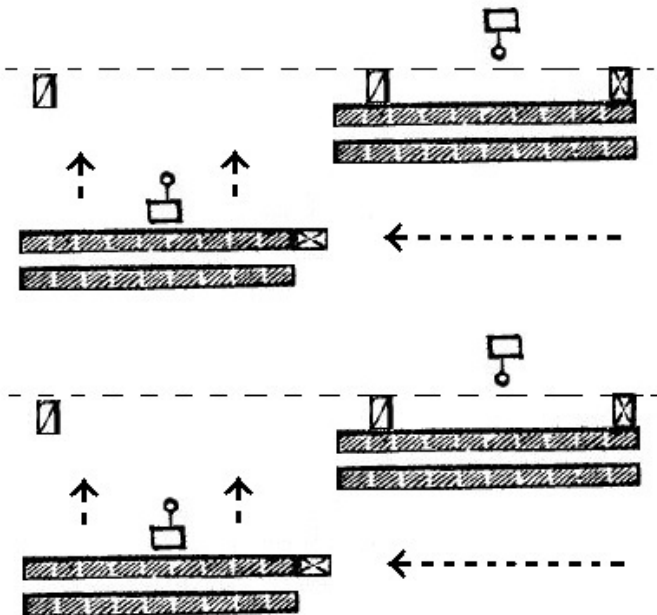
FRONT,

and take his place before its centre.

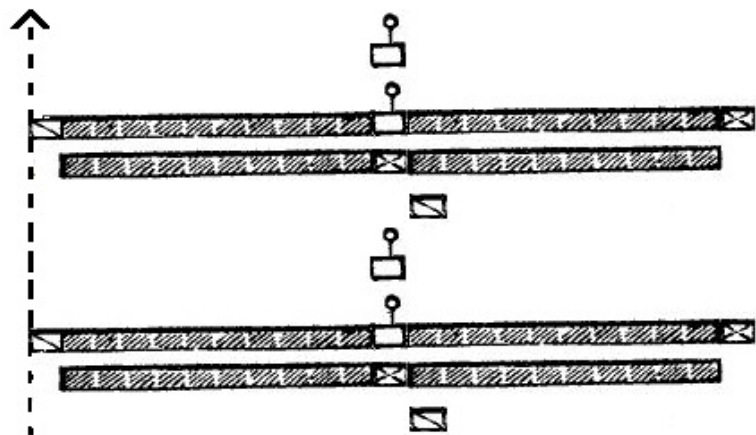
Column of companies, right in front.



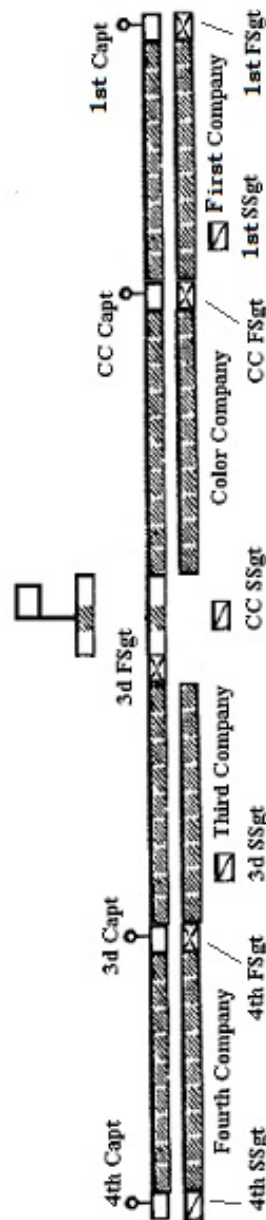
Forming two divisions from a column of four companies.



Column of divisions, right in front.



Battalion ready to march forward.



Battalion : Posts for Captains is side of their respective companies in front rank opposite the colors to observe the march. Post for First Sergeant immediately left of the colors is in front rank covering for his captain. Post for left most Second Sergeant is in rear rank behind his Captain like the First Sergeants on the right of the colors. Post for Second Sergeant of Color Company is opposite second file of his company. Color Guard is considered a component of the Color Company when marching.