

Change Front Forward On Fourth (last) Company

This command given when the battalion is in a line of battle, or fronted. The commander wishes to form a line of battle 90 degrees **to the left, with the pivot point being the 2nd Sgt of the 4th company**. Markers would normally be placed to indicate the new line. The colonel will notify the captain of the fourth company of the change. The captain of fourth company will **immediately wheel** his company **left** to the line established by the markers (Lt. Colonel, Major, Adjutant, ...). The colonel will command:

Change front forward on fourth company. By company, left half wheel. MARCH. (Colonel)

At “half wheel”, the remaining captains will move to the center of their companies cautioning them to prepare to wheel. At “march” the companies will left wheel from a fixed pivot on the 2nd Sgt. The colonel will command:

Forward. MARCH. Guide, left. (Colonel)

On this command, the companies will stop wheeling and march toward their positions in the new line. The captain and second sergeant should take care to make sure their company will arrive in the correct place by guiding towards the right guide of the company on the left. When the 2nd Sgt. is three paces from the new line, the captain will **halt** the company. All of the company will come up on linewith the 2nd Sgt. (3 paces from the battle line). The 1st Sgts. will step out into the line of markers, that is one step beyond the line, facing left, and one half file to the left. Hardee’s relies on the inverse of this maneuver on the first company. The captain will then command:

Left, DRESS. (Captain)

The rest of the company steps up to the battle line. This will happen quickly and with ease because the 1st Sgts are marking the new line. The captain moves to a position on the line, on the left of the last man at the end of his company. He will be in the normal position of the captain of the company on his left. He remains there until “posted”.

FRONT. (Captain)

The 1st Sgt. will remain in the line of guides until “posted”. The men will have their arms at the shoulder. When the colonel is satisfied with the alignment of the battalion he will command:

Guides. POSTS. (Colonel)

The 1st Sgts and captains now return to their normal position on the line at the right of their company.

Hardee’s does not indicate that the men will support arms after dressing for this maneuver. I think that’s because the line of battle had already been established. Unless I can find reference elsewhere, the men will remain at the shoulder when dressed.

