

Change Front To Rear On First Company

Handout revised: 08-24-2004

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 1st Sgt of the 1st company**. Markers would normally be placed to indicate the new line. The colonel will notify the captain of the first company of the change. The captain of first company will **immediately** face to the rear and wheel his company left to the line established by the markers (Lt. Colonel, Major, Adjutant, ...). The colonel will command:

**Change front to rear on first company. Battalion, about face.
By company, left half wheel. MARCH. (Colonel)**

At “half wheel”, the remaining captains will move **behind** and center of their companies. At “march” the companies will left wheel from a **fixed pivot** on the 1st Sgt. The colonel will command:

Forward. MARCH. Guide, left. (Colonel)

The companies will stop wheeling and march toward their positions in the new line. The captain should take care to make sure his company will arrive in the correct place by guiding towards the end of the company ahead. If the company reaches their part of the line where they need to turn and march directly at the battle line, the captain will command: **Left, TURN**. When the 1st Sgt. is three paces **past** the battle line, the captain will **halt** the company. All of the company will come up on line with the 1st Sgt. (3 paces past and parallel to the battle line). The captain will face the company to the front. When the captain sees that the company he is following is dressed, he will dress the company to the right, onto the battle line.

**Face by the front rank. About, FACE. (Captain)
Right, DRESS. (Captain)**

The 2nd Sgts. will step out into the line of markers, (one step beyond the line facing right) and a half file to the right. The rest of the company steps up to the battle line. The captain moves to his normal position on the line.

FRONT. (Captain)

The 2nd 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.

