



Every company commander and subaltern should know, and be able to teach, these basic principles:

Facings: to the left and to the right.

Marching by the Flank: by the left and by the right.

By the Right of Companies, To the Rear and Front, and by the Left of Companies, to the Rear and Front.

The Manual of Arms.

Officer's Manual of the Sword.

BATTALION EVOLUTIONS FOR THE COMING SEASON

FROM COLUMN OF COMPANIES INTO LINE OF BATTLE:

Deploy the column FORWARD. (First Company stands fast successive companies either oblique or march by the left flank, then by the right to form the line.) **And to reform the column.**

Deploy the column on the RIGHT. (First Company wheels to the right, successive companies pass behind, then wheel to the right.)

Deploy the column on the LEFT. (All Companies, Left wheel into line.)

DEPLOYING INTO LINE FROM A FLANK MARCH TO FORM THE BATTALION "ON THE RIGHT BY FILE, INTO LINE OF BATTLE:

The Colonel will determine where the deployment is to begin and the Adjutant will set two markers on that line. When the head of the battalion is nearly at the first marker the Colonel commands: (Preparatory) **"On the Right, by File, Into Line."** (Execution) **"MARCH"**

On the command "March" the leading company executes on the right by file into line. The following companies file past the deploying company and execute the above when at their place in line. (*This maneuver is outlined in Casey's School of the Company, No. 151.*)

**ADVANCING AND RETIRING BY THE LEFT AND RIGHT OF COMPANIES:
To relieve a battalion by a passage of lines:**

The Commander of the 1st Battalion orders

“By the LEFT of Companies and to the REAR, LEFT FACE - MARCH”:

1st battalion executes a left face on “march” and moves toward the 2nd battalion.

The Commander of the 2nd Battalion orders

“By the RIGHT of Companies and to the FRONT, RIGHT FACE, MARCH”:

2nd battalion executes a right face on “march” and moves towards the 1st battalion

The battalions pass each other. The 1st is *going toward the rear* by left of companies and the 2nd is *advancing* by the right of companies.

After the battalions pass each other, the 2nd battalion (now in front) may be deployed into line by the command: (Preparatory) **“BY COMPANIES INTO LINE,”** (Execution) **“MARCH”** (Direction) **Guide Center.**

If the 1st battalion commander wants to form a line facing the enemy and in the rear of the 2nd battalion (also correcting the direction of the companies) he commands:

(Preparatory) **“RIGHT ABOUT”** (Execution) **“MARCH”** (The battalion executes a march to the rear march) and then orders **“BY COMPANIES INTO LINE, MARCH”**. **“GUIDE CENTER”**

CHANGE OF FRONT ON THE RIGHT AND LEFT:

Change of front to the RIGHT: 1st Company wheels to the right to establish the line, all other companies oblique to their position on the newly established line forming the front.

Change of front to the LEFT: 5th Company (or last company) wheels to the left to establish the line, all other companies oblique to establish the line forming the new front.

Countermarches: When ordered to countermarch from a column, the first company shall lead, successive companies will countermarch from their position in the column. The entire column **shall not** move forward.

Battalion Firings:

The colors and color guard do not fire but on the preparatory command execute the following;
“The color and its guard will step back at the same time, so as to bring the front rank of the guard into line with the rear rank of the battalion. This rule is general for all firings.” (*Casey’s School of the Battalion, Para. 47, page 14.*)

When operating in a battalion formation the following firing(s) can be used:

1. Fire by Company:

The commands from the Colonel are: **“Fire By Company”, “Commence Firing”.**

Each company commander orders:

“(Number) Company” “Ready” “Aim” “Fire”, “Load”

Odd numbered companies commence firing in the following order: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9. Even numbered companies fire in order, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, after the company on their right fires.

THE FIRST ROUND FIRED SHOULD BE IN THIS ORDER:

**Company 1, 3, 5, 7, 9,
2, 4, 6, 8, 10**

All firings after the first are on order of the company commander without waiting for the other companies and continues until the Colonel orders “Cease Fire.” **NOTE:** On the command “Cease Fire.” ALL officers, NCO’s Guides, Colors and Guard move back to their regular position on line. **This rule applies to all firings.** (*Casey’s School of the Battalion, Para 51, Page 15.*)

When firing by Company or File the aim should always be directly to the front. Oblique firings are only used when firing by Battalion, Wing or Rank.

When firing by the Oblique (right or left) the caution **“Right (or Left) Oblique”** is added between the commands **“Ready”** and **“Aim”**.

Example: “Fire By Wing” “Right Wing” “Ready” “Right Oblique” “Aim” “Fire” “Load”.

2. Fire By Wing:

Firing by wing is done directly on the order of the battalion commander and continues alternately; Right Wing, then Left Wing. (NOTE; Right Wing is all the companies to the right of the colors, and the left is all those to the left.)

The commands are:

“Fire By Wing” “Right Wing” “Ready” “Aim” “Fire” “Load”, then- “Left Wing” etc.

(Note: After the first firing of each wing “Ready” is dropped as each soldier is to come to the ready after loading. The battalion will continue to Fire By Wing under command of the Colonel or Wing Commander at the Colonel’s direction until “Cease Fire” is ordered by the Colonel.)

3. Fire by Battalion:

Firing By Battalion is done exactly as Fire By Wing with the exception being that the entire Battalion fires on the command of the Colonel. One solid volley.

The commands are:

“Fire By Battalion” “Battalion” “Ready” “Aim” “Fire” “Load”.

Or, to fire by oblique;

“Fire By Battalion,” “Battalion,” “Ready,” “Right (or Left) Oblique,” “Aim,” “Fire.”

4. Fire by File

This is one of the most misunderstood or misused commands. This command is used by the commander of a battalion to begin independent (individual soldiers) firing. (NOTE: “Independent Fire” is NOT a proper command in the US Army.)

The commands are:

“Firing By File” “Battalion” “Ready” “COMMENCE FIRING”

On the order “Commence Firing” each company begins firing by file from the right. Once the first round is fired, each soldier fires independently of all others until the order to “Cease Fire” is given.

5. To Fire By Rank

In executing the entire Battalion fires with the rear rank firing first.

The commands are:

“Fire By Rank,” “Battalion,” “Ready,” “Rear Rank,” “Aim,” “Fire,” “Load.”

Seeing several of the rear rank men coming to the ready after loading again, the Colonel commands the “Front Rank” as above. This alternate firing will continue until on order until changed or “Cease Fire” is ordered.

6. To Fire By the Rear Rank

In order to fire to the rear of the Battalion facing, the Colonel must first order it about. This is done using the following commands:

“Face by the Rear Rank,” “Battalion,” “About – FACE.”

On the command “FACE”, the entire Battalion executes about face and captains, covering sergeants, and file closers all execute the School of the Company No. 69 (Casey’s). The color bearer passes through the

rear rank to the front rank and faces about. All field grade staff, including music, pass around the closest flank of the Battalion to the front and faces about. The Battalion is now faced by the rear and ready to fire.

NOTE: While faced to the rear, all companies maintain their number designation and wing designation. The 1st Company is still the 1st Company and the 4th, 4th company and so on. The Left Wing is still the Left Wing. The Battalion has not changed front, only Faced to the Rear.

From this position, all of the battalion firings can be executed to the rear until it is no longer needed.

When the threat is over, the Colonel commands:

“Face By The Front Rank,” “Battalion,” “About- FACE.”

On this command the entire Battalion executes about face and all personnel return to their proper stations on line.