



School Of The Soldier

# A WORD ABOUT GUIDES

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# Guides and Markers

- A prerequisite for being able to march properly is the proper positioning of the guide!
- Obliques – Guide is always to the side of the Oblique
- Turns – Are changes in direction to the Guide
- Wheels – Are changes in direction away from the Guide
- Marching to the Front/Rear – Guide needs to be set depending on the next intended maneuver
- For Turns and Wheels, the Marker needs to be set BEFORE the command of execution is given.

# Discourse about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant

- There is a nice discussion about the reenactor usage of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant by Leonidas Jones who, at the time he authored the article, was Major and Principal Instructor Liberty Greys, 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment ANV.
  - <http://www.drillnet.net/2SGT.htm>
  - Reenactorism: use them as Corporals to Close the left flank
  - Reenactorism: like a Corporal they fire with the Company
  - Proper Usage: two functions
    - File closer – normal position
    - Company Left Guide – when the need arises in Company Maneuvers
- Major Jones' reference is Hardee's instructions 14, 15 and 19. The relevant references in Casey's Volume 1, School of the Soldier and Company are instructions 21, 22 and 26.
  - The instructions in each manual are exactly the same.

# Casey's Instructions for Company Formation.

- **15.** The formation of a regiment is in two ranks; and each company will be formed into two ranks, in the following manner: the corporals will be posted in the front-rank, and on the right and left of platoons, according to height; the tallest corporal and the tallest man will form the first file, the next two tallest men will form the second file, and so on to the last file, which will be composed of the shortest corporal and the shortest man.
- **16.** The odd and even files, numbered as one, two, in the company, from right to left, will form groups of four men, who will be designated *comrades in battle*.
- **19.** The company officers and sergeants are nine in number, and will be posted in the following manner:
- **20.** The *captain* on the right of the company, touching with the left elbow.
- ➔ • **21.** **The *first sergeant* in the rear-rank, touching with the left elbow, and covering the captain. In the maneuvers he will be denominated *covering sergeant*, or *right guide* of the company.**
- ➔ • **22.** **The remaining officers and sergeants will be posted as file closers, and two paces behind the rear-rank.**
- **23.** The *first lieutenant*, opposite the centre of the fourth section.
- **24.** The *second lieutenant*, opposite the centre of the first platoon.
- **25.** The *third lieutenant*, opposite the centre of the second platoon.
- ➔ • **26.** **The *second sergeant*, opposite the second file from the left of the company. In the maneuvers he will be designated *left guide* of the company.**
- **27.** The *third sergeant*, opposite the second file from the right of the second platoon.
- **28.** The *fourth sergeant*, opposite the second file from the left of the first platoon.
- **29.** The *fifth sergeant*, opposite the second file from the right of the first platoon.
- **30.** In the left, or eighth company of the battalion, the second sergeant will be posted in the front-rank, and on the left of the battalion.
- **31.** The *corporals* will be posted in the front-rank as prescribed, No. 15.
- **32.** Absent officers and sergeants will be replaced – officers by sergeants, and sergeants by corporals. The colonel may detach a first lieutenant from one company to command another, of which both the captain and first lieutenant are absent; but this authority will give no right to a lieutenant to demand to be so detached.

# Left Guide or File Closer

## When in Line of Battle (Casey's)

- When Advancing as Battalion or Regiment Line of Battle = positioned as File Closer
  - **S.S. 22.** The remaining officers and sergeants will be posted as file closers, and two paces behind the rear-rank.
  - **S.S. 26.** The *second sergeant*, opposite the second file from the left of the company. In the maneuvers he will be designated *left guide* of the company.
- When Advancing as Battalion or Regiment Line of Battle & Leftmost Company = positioned as Left Guide
  - **S.S. 30.** In the left, or eighth company of the battalion, the second sergeant will be posted in the front-rank, and on the left of the battalion.
- By Company Into Line = must be directed to take position of Left Guide
  - **S.C. 160.** At the instant the movement begins, the captain will face to his company in order to follow up the execution; and, as soon as the company is formed, he will command, *guide left*, place himself two paces before the centre, face to the front, and take the step of the company.
  - **S.C. 161.** At the command *guide left*, the second sergeant will promptly place himself in the front-rank, on the left, to serve as guide, and the covering sergeant who is on the opposite flank will remain there.
- When Marching in a Column of Company = positioned as Left Guide
  - **S.C. 163.** Thus, in a column by company, right or left in front, the covering sergeant and the second sergeant of each company will always be placed on the right and left, respectively, of the front-rank; they will be denominated *right guide* and *left guide*, and the one or the other charged with the direction.
- When Firing = positioned as File Closer
  - Unless marching as a standalone Company, or being the leftmost Company of a Battalion or Regiment, when in Line of Battle, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant should not have been in the Front Rank to begin with.
  - Recall **S.S. 22** and **S.S. 26**.

# Left Guide or File Closer

## When Marching by the Flank (Casey's)

- When Marching in a Battalion/Regiment Line of Battle by the Left Flank = positioned as File Closer
  - Major Jones' article asserts there is no space for them to step into a Company's left Guide position
- When Marching in a Column of Company by the Right Flank = positioned as File Closer
  - **S.C. 139.** The file closers will also move by side step to the right, so that when the ranks are formed, they will be two paces from the rearmost rank.
- When Marching in a Column of Company by the Left Flank = positioned as Left Guide
  - **S.C. 143.** At the instant the company faces to the left, the left guide will place himself at the head of the front-rank; the captain will pass rapidly to the left, and place himself by the right side of this guide; the covering sergeant will replace the captain in the front-rank, the moment the latter quits it to go to the left.
- By the Right of Companies to the Front or Rear = Remain as File Closer
  - We are now marching in a Column of Company by the Right Flank
- By the Left of Companies to the Front or Rear = Move from File Closer to Left Guide after Breaking Files
  - We are now marching in a Column of Company by the Left Flank

# Guides Posts

- When forming Line of Battle from Column of Company
  - the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant was already in the Company Front Rank acting as the Left Guide
  - After the Captain has aligned his company (Right/Left Dress), the Left Guides will be ordered to return to their Posts as Closers.
- Officers and 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeants vacate their interval to allow the Left Guides to pass through.
  - **S.B. 469.** Each captain, having aligned his company, will command FRONT, and the colonel will add: *Guides—POSTS*.
  - **S.B. 470.** At this command, the guides will return to their places in line of battle, each passing through the nearest captain's interval; to permit him to pass, the captain will momentarily step before the first file of his company, and the covering sergeant behind the same file.  
*This rule is general for all the formations into line of battle.*