



A SEMINAR ON
CASEY'S SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

SCHOOLS OF THE SOLDIER AND COMPANY

MARCHING WHEELING FROM LINE INTO COLUMN AND FROM COLUMN INTO LINE

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11 DECEMBER 2018

UPDATED 1 OCTOBER 2026

This lesson illustrates the instructions from the School of the Battalion.

For passing from Line of Battle into Order in Column
And for passing from Order in Column to Line of Battle
It brings forward the instructions that are referenced from the
School of the Company.

For illustration purposes, 3 Companies are used: C, A, and D.

- They are intentionally not the same size to help illustrate some of the challenges reenactors will face when Companies are not the same size.
- As a result of my slide real-estate management-decisions, the entire width of C and D Companies does not always appear in the slides.
- Each Company has a 1st Sergeant, 2nd Sergeant, First Corporal, and Last Corporal.
 - Note: These Sergeants and Corporals, and the Privates next to those Corporals need to know how to execute these maneuvers as they are critical to proper execution.
- In this presentation, C Company is not the leftmost company.
 - If it was the leftmost company, when returning from Order in Column into Line of Battle, its 2nd Sgt would return to its position in the front rank as the Battalion left Guide, instead of as a closer.
 - Reference the section titled POSTS OF COMPANY OFFICERS SERGEANTS AND CORPORALS, instruction 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.

I've underlined the portion of the relevant instruction(s) being focused on in each illustration.

breaking from line to column, and forming from column to line

- The fundamentals of breaking from line to column, either at a halt or while marching, are taught in School of the Company: Lesson 5, Article 1.
- The fundamentals of being in column to form to the right or left into line of battle, either at a halt or while marching are taught in School of the Company: Lesson 5, Article 5.
- The instructions for breaking a Battalion from line to column, either at a halt or while marching, are taught in School of the Battalion, Part Second: Article 1, and reference the relevant instructions from School of the Company.
- The instructions for a Battalion being in column to form to the right or left into line of battle, either at a halt or while marching are taught in School of the Battalion, Part Fourth: Article 2, and reference the relevant instructions from School of the Company.

The Wheel – Always on a Fixed Pivot

- When breaking from line to column, or forming from column to line, either at a halt or while marching,
 - the wheel is ALWAYS executed on a fixed pivot.
- The execution of the fixed pivot varies slightly depending on whether the Company is halted or marching.
 - From HALT to HALT:
 - The guide stands fast.
 - The soldier next to the guide faces the guide and stands fast.
 - Per S.C. 199, he is the “true pivot-man”.
 - The soldier next to the man-that-faced must scribe a small arc around the man-that faced.
 - Per S.C. 199, “to gain a little ground to the front in wheeling”.
 - Guides return to their posts upon the command: Guides Posts.
 - From MARCHING to HALT:
 - The guide stands fast.
 - The soldier next to the guide DOES NOT face the guide.
 - The soldier next to the guide marks time and is the pivot-man for the wheel.
 - Guides return to their posts upon the command: Guides Posts.
 - From HALT to MARCHING & From MARCHING to MARCHING
 - The guide halts and stands fast.
 - The soldier next to the guide marks time and is the pivot-man for the wheel.
 - Guides return to their posts before the wheel completes.

A Word About “Caution”

- Some Battalion and Company commands require different execution by the Companies depending on conditions going into the maneuver or the expected outcome of the maneuver.
- The manuals are clear as to how the Privates and NCOs in a Company are to be made aware of the difference in execution and what is expected of them.
- The School of the Battalion explicitly instructs Battalion Officers to “caution” their subordinates regarding the expected outcome of an upcoming Battalion command. E.g.
 - S.B. 97. When the colonel shall wish to move the column forward without halting it, he will caution the battalion to that effect, and command:
 - 1. By company, right wheel. 2. MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).
- The School of the Battalion explicitly instructs Company Officers to “caution” the members of their Company as to the expected outcome and required execution of an upcoming command. E.g.
 - 1. By company, right wheel. 2. MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).
 - S.B. 79. At the first command, each captain will place himself rapidly before the centre of his company, and caution it that it has to wheel to the right; each covering sergeant will replace his captain in the front rank.
- The School of the Company instruction 215 provides an example of how officers should caution their men under their command.
 - S.C. 215. In column, chiefs of subdivision will always repeat, with the greatest promptitude, the commands march and halt, no chief waiting for another but each repeating the command the moment he catches it from the instructor. They will repeat no other command given by him; but will explain, if necessary, to their subdivisions, in an under tone of voice, what they will have to execute, as indicated by the commands of caution.
- The use of “caution” is a great way for reenactors to remind their men how they are supposed to execute the upcoming maneuver.
 - Especially for those men who have not been properly drilled that find themselves in a key position.

Execution of the fixed-pivot and Alignment details

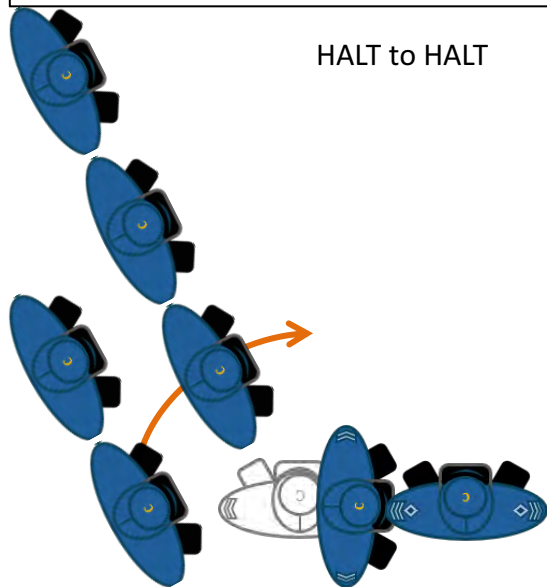
The Guide always stands fast. The pivot-man executes differently.

S.B. 81. At the command march, each company will break to the right, according to the principles prescribed in the S. C., No. 178; each captain will conform himself to what is prescribed for the chiefs of platoon; the left guide, as soon as he can pass, will place himself on the left of the front rank to conduct the marching flank, and when he shall have approached near to the perpendicular, the captain will command:

1. Such company. 2. HALT.

S.C. 178. At the command march, the right front-rank man of each platoon will face to the right, the covering sergeant standing fast; the chief of each platoon will move quickly by the shortest line, a little beyond the point at which the marching flank will rest when the wheel shall be completed, face to the late rear, and place himself so that the line which he forms with the man on the right (who had faced), shall be perpendicular to that occupied by the company in line of battle; each platoon will wheel according to the principles prescribed for the wheel on a fixed pivot, and when the man who conducts the marching flank shall approach near to the perpendicular, its chief will command:

1. Platoon. 2. HALT.



HALT to HALT

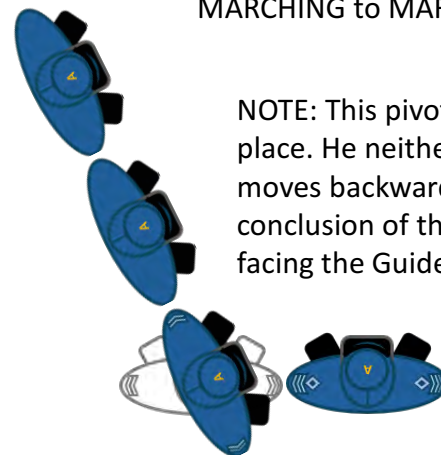
S.B. 99. At the second command, they will remain in front of their companies to superintend the movement; the companies will wheel to the right on fixed pivots as indicated in the S. C., No. 190; the left guides will conform to what is prescribed above; when they shall arrive near the perpendicular, the colonel will command:

3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.

S.C. 190. At the command march the platoons will wheel to the right, conforming to the principle herein prescribed; the man on the pivot will not face to the right, but will mark time, conforming himself to the movement of the marching flank; and when the man who is on the left of this flank shall arrive near the perpendicular, the instructor will command:

3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.

HALT to MARCHING
MARCHING to HALT
MARCHING to MARCHING



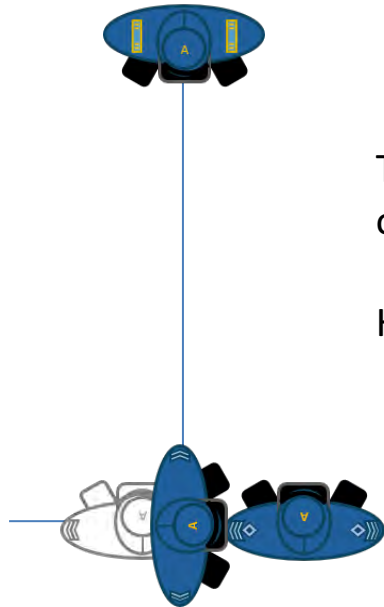
NOTE: This pivot-man slowly turns in place. He neither moves forward nor moves backward. Therefore, at the conclusion of this wheel, he should be facing the Guide.

From HALT to HALT: The Captain aligns himself on the man-that-faced

S.B. 81. At the command march, each company will break to the right, according to the principles prescribed in the S. C., No. 178; each captain will conform himself to what is prescribed for the chiefs of platoon; the left guide, as soon as he can pass, will place himself on the left of the front rank to conduct the marching flank, and when he shall have approached near to the perpendicular, the captain will command: 1. Such company. 2. HALT.

S.C. 178. At the command march, the right front-rank man of each platoon will face to the right, the covering sergeant standing fast; the chief of each platoon will move quickly by the shortest line, a little beyond the point at which the marching flank will rest when the wheel shall be completed, face to the late rear, and place himself so that the line which he forms with the man on the right (who had faced), shall be perpendicular to that occupied by the company in line of battle; each platoon will wheel according to the principles prescribed for the wheel on a fixed pivot, and when the man who conducts the marching flank shall approach near to the perpendicular, its chief will command: 1. Platoon. 2. HALT.

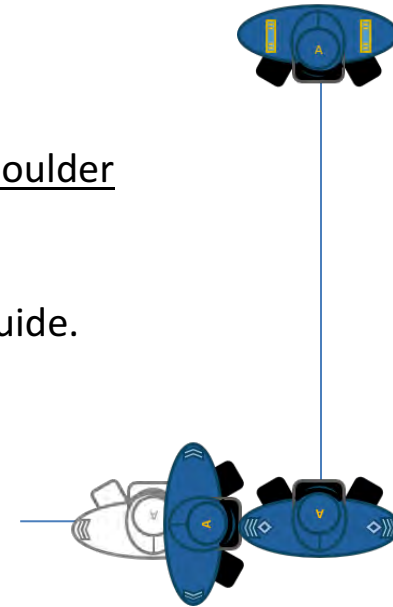
Correct Execution



The Captain aligns himself on the shoulder of the man-who-had-faced.

He does NOT align himself on the Guide.

Wrong Execution

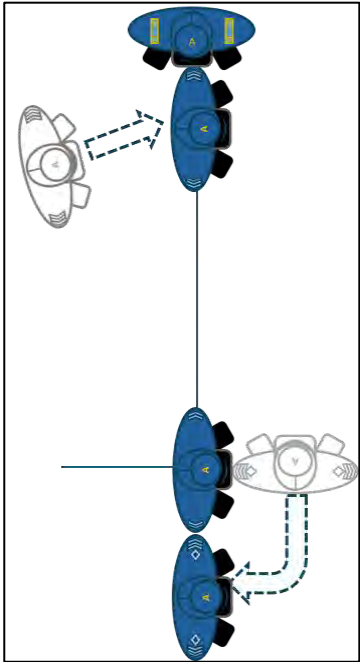


From HALT to HALT: The Guide aligns his arm on the breast of the Captain

S.B. 82. At the second command, which will be given at the instant the left guide shall be at the distance of three paces from the perpendicular, the company will halt; the guide will advance and place his left arm lightly against the breast of the captain, who will establish him on the alignment of the man who has faced to the right; the covering sergeant will place himself correctly on the alignment on the right of that man; which being executed, the captain will align his company by the left, command FRONT, and place himself two paces before its centre.

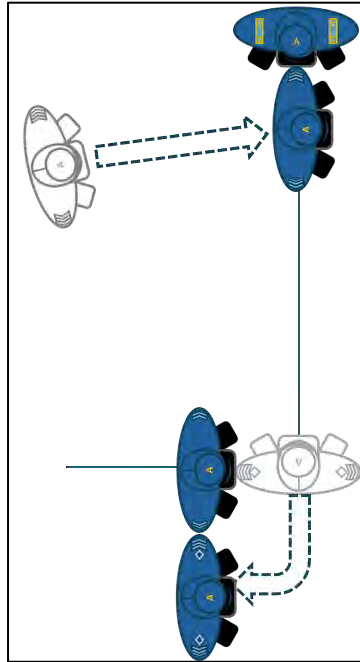
Because the Captain aligns himself on the shoulder of the man-who-had-faced (the true pivot-man), when the Flanking-Guide places his arm against the breast of the Captain, the Captain is positioned to visually ensure the new alignment.

Correct Execution

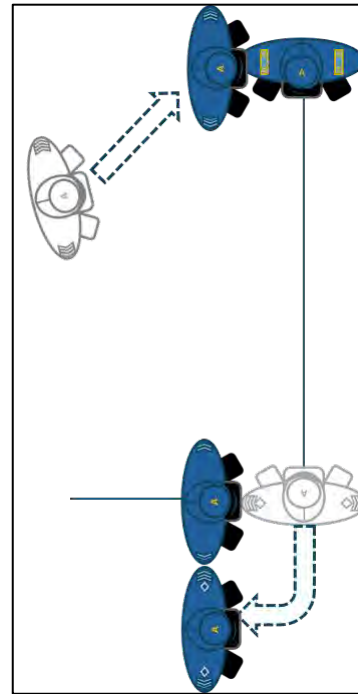


Captain is aligned on the pivot-man
Guide's left arm is on breast of Captain.

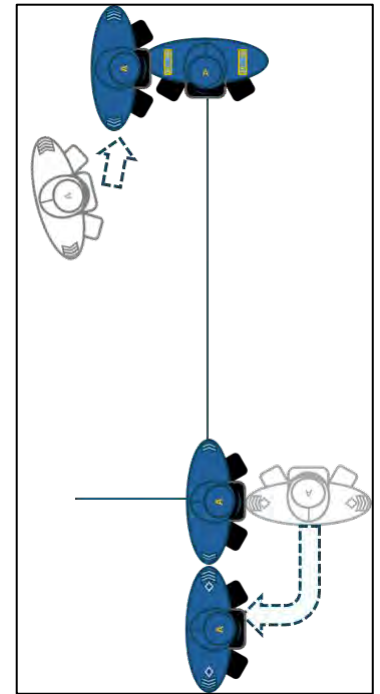
Wrong Execution



Captain was aligned on the Guide.
Guide's left arm is on breast of Captain.



Captain was aligned on Guide.
Guide's breast is on Captain's right arm.



Captain is aligned on pivot-man.
Guide's breast is on Captain's right arm.

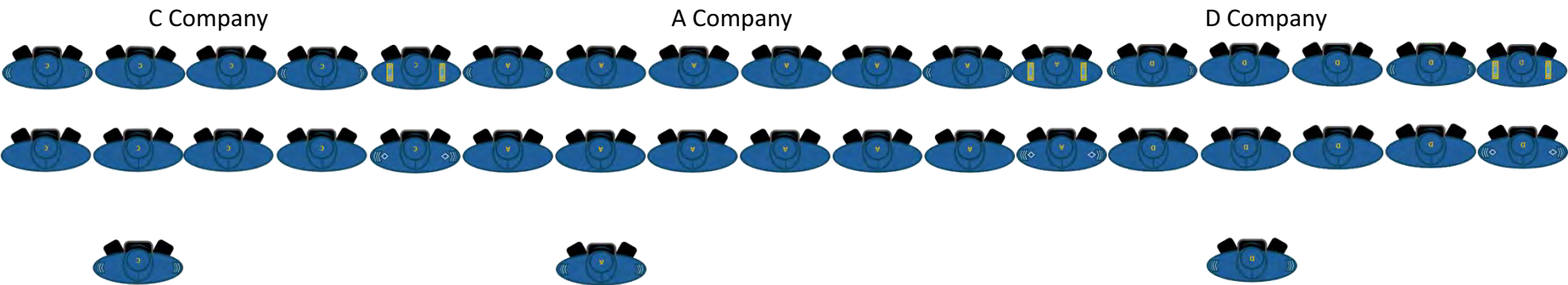
SCHOOL OF THE BATTALION.

ARTICLE I.

To break to the right or the left into column.

From HALT to HALT

Battalion in Line of Battle



S.B. 78. It is here supposed that the colonel wishes to break by company to the right; he will command:
1. *By company, right wheel.* 2. MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).

NOTE:

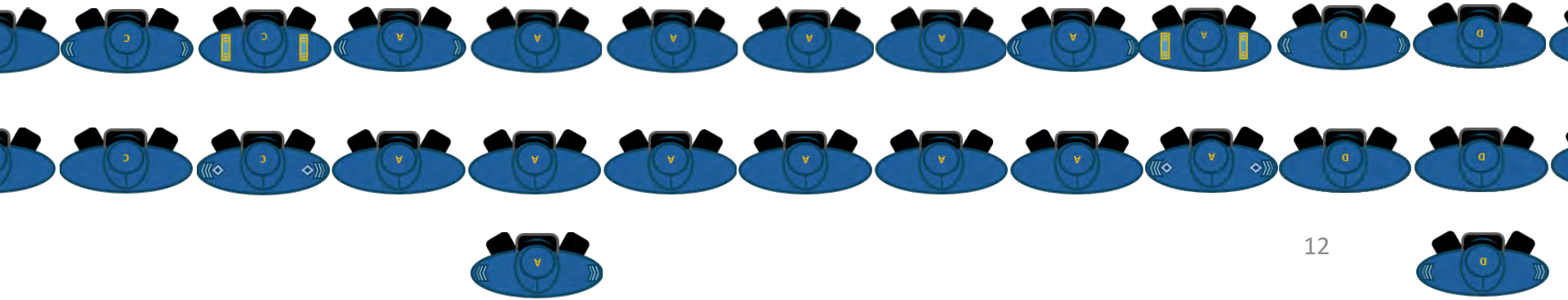
Before commanding the Companies to wheel, **the line upon which the “marching flank will rest when the wheel shall be completed” should be marked in advance by the Battalion staff** so that each Company Captain knows where they need to place themselves.



This line should be far enough from the current Battalion Front to accommodate the width of the largest Company in the Battalion.

However, should this line not be marked in advance, or the Captains place themselves too long or too short relative to the desired line, per the School of the Battalion instruction 83, that error will be rectified when the Companies march.

S.B. 83. The captains having commanded FRONT, the guides, although some of them may not be in the direction of the preceding guides, will stand fast, in order that the error of a company that has wheeled too much or too little may not be propagated; the guides not in the direction will readily come into it when the column is put in march.



the line upon which the “marching flank will rest when the wheel shall be completed”

S.B. 78. It is here supposed that the colonel wishes to break by company to the right; he will command:

1. *By company, right wheel.* 2. MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).

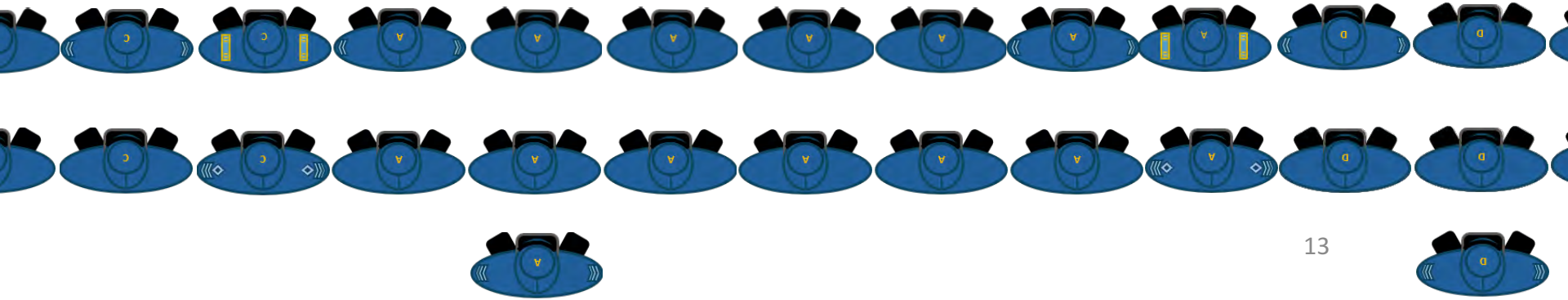
Before issuing the preparatory command, the Colonel should caution the Battalion as to the expected outcome of his command.

This would also be the opportune time for the Battalion staff to set the line upon which the “marching flank will rest when the wheel shall be completed.”

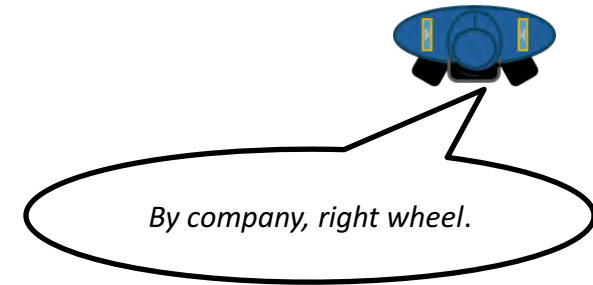


Battalion.

“Break by Company into Column to the right.”
(Or *“Form Column of Companies on the First Company.”*)

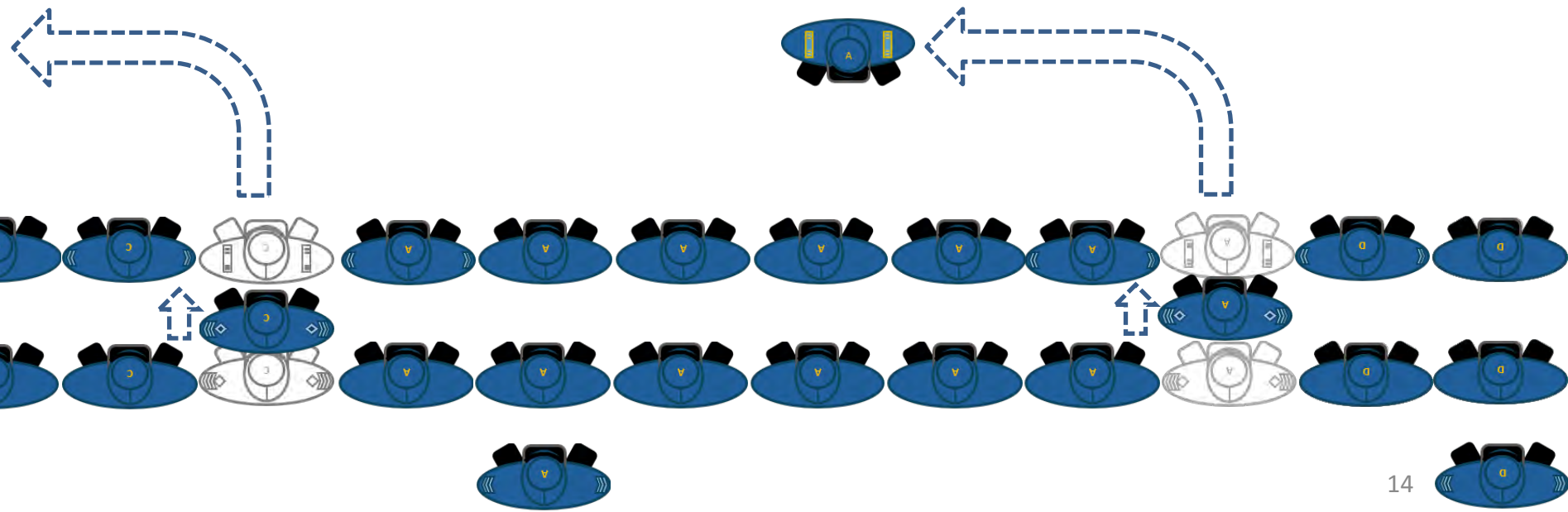


S.B. 79. At the first command, each captain will place himself rapidly before the centre of his company, and caution it that it has to wheel to the right; each covering sergeant will replace his captain in the front rank.



Note:

- The Colonel needs to pause between the preparatory command and the command of execution.
 - He needs to allow the Captain and First Sergeant to move to their positions.
 - He needs to allow the Captain to caution his men that they are about to wheel on a fixed pivot.



S.B. 79. At the first command, each captain will place himself rapidly before the centre of his company, and caution it that it has to wheel to the right; each covering sergeant will replace his captain in the front rank.



Note:

Regarding the “caution”

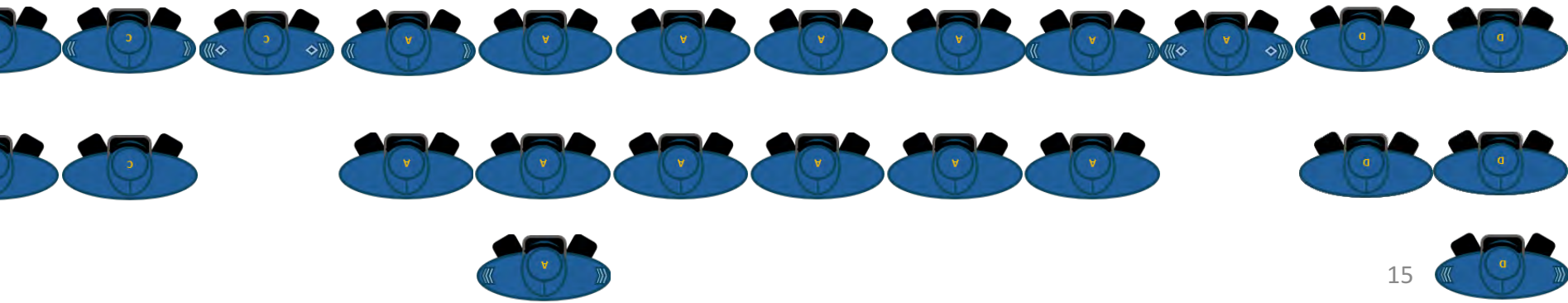
The Captain should:

- remind the Company that they are executing a wheel on a fixed pivot,
- remind the 1st Corporal that he needs to perform a right face,
- remind the 1st Sergeant to stand fast.

“caution” the men, e.g.,:
A Company,
Prepare to wheel on a fixed pivot to the right.

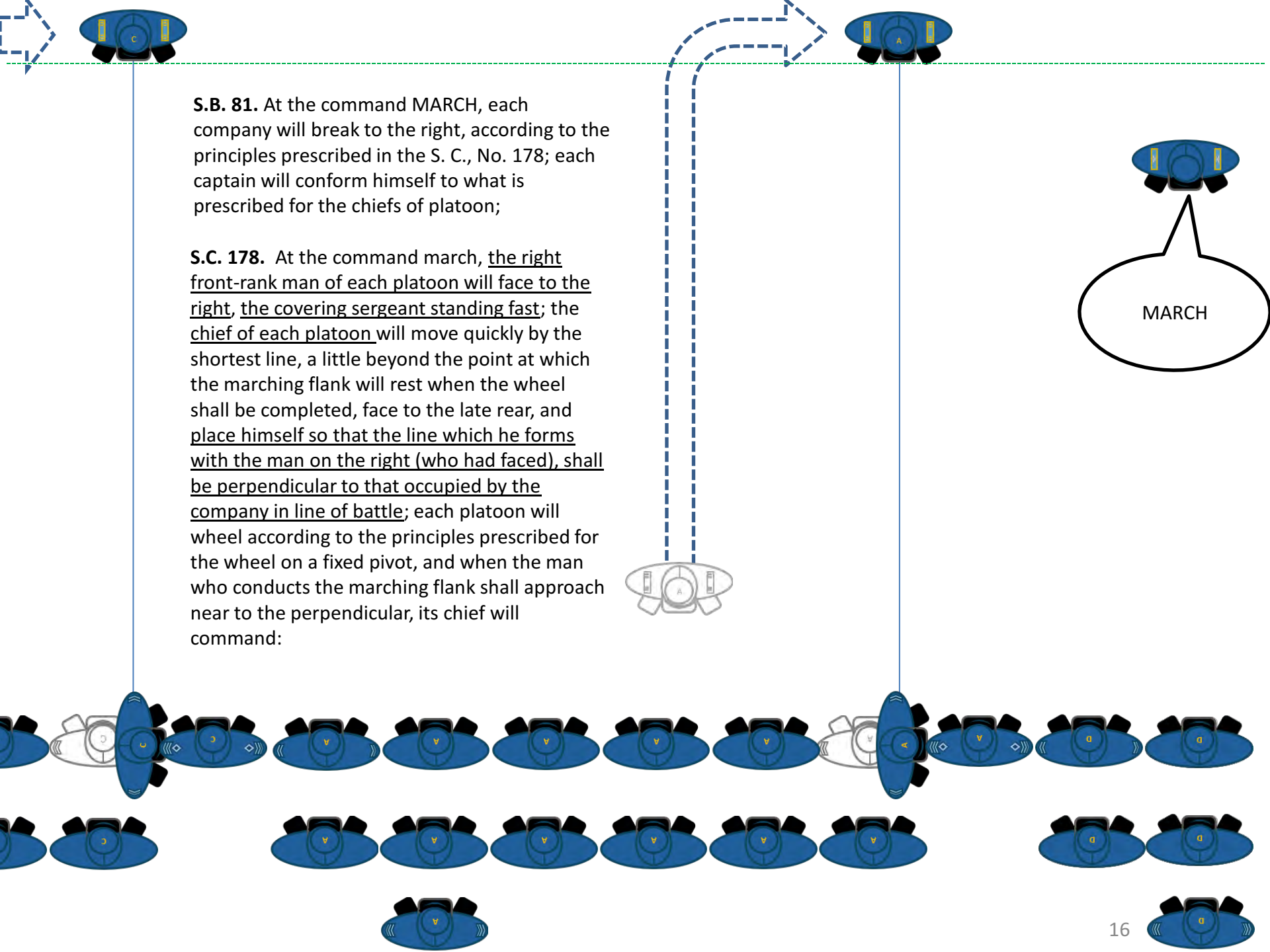
1st Corporal,
You will face to the right.

1st Sergeant,
You will stand fast.



S.B. 81. At the command MARCH, each company will break to the right, according to the principles prescribed in the S. C., No. 178; each captain will conform himself to what is prescribed for the chiefs of platoon;

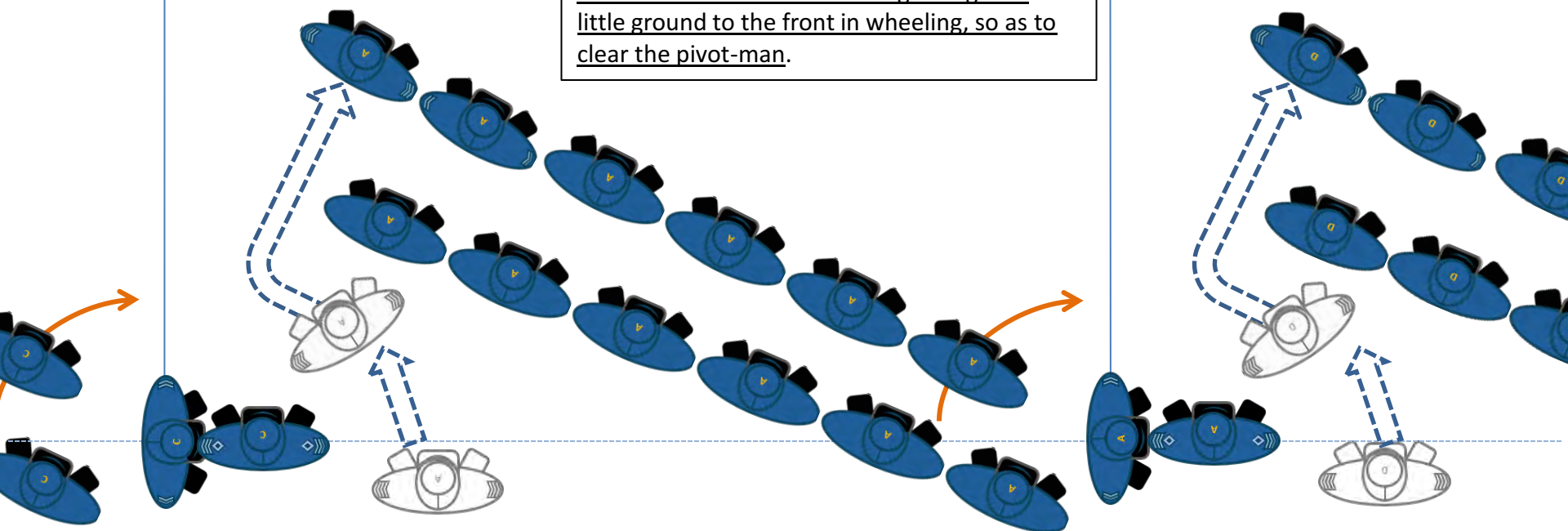
S.C. 178. At the command march, the right front-rank man of each platoon will face to the right, the covering sergeant standing fast; the chief of each platoon will move quickly by the shortest line, a little beyond the point at which the marching flank will rest when the wheel shall be completed, face to the late rear, and place himself so that the line which he forms with the man on the right (who had faced), shall be perpendicular to that occupied by the company in line of battle; each platoon will wheel according to the principles prescribed for the wheel on a fixed pivot, and when the man who conducts the marching flank shall approach near to the perpendicular, its chief will command:

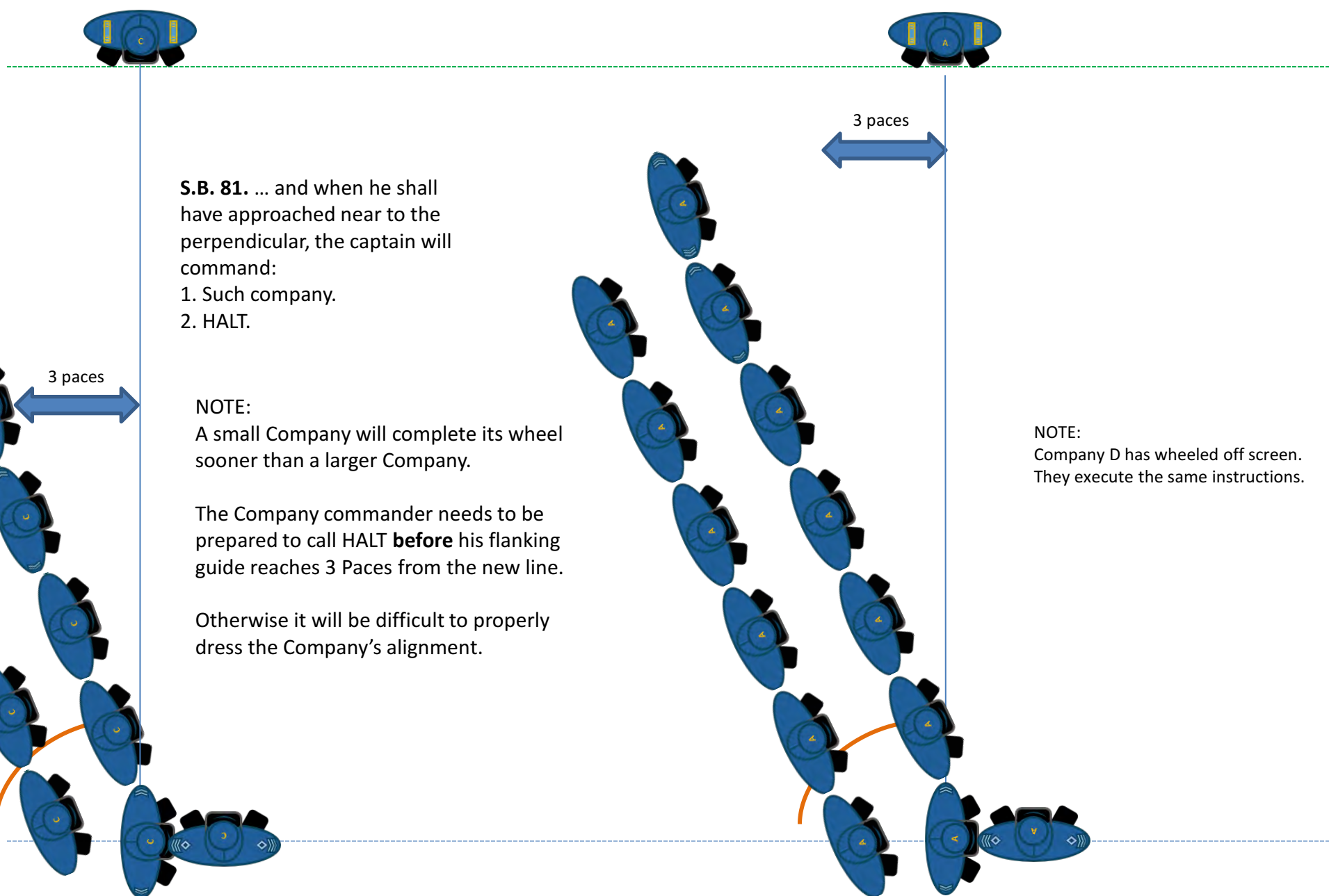


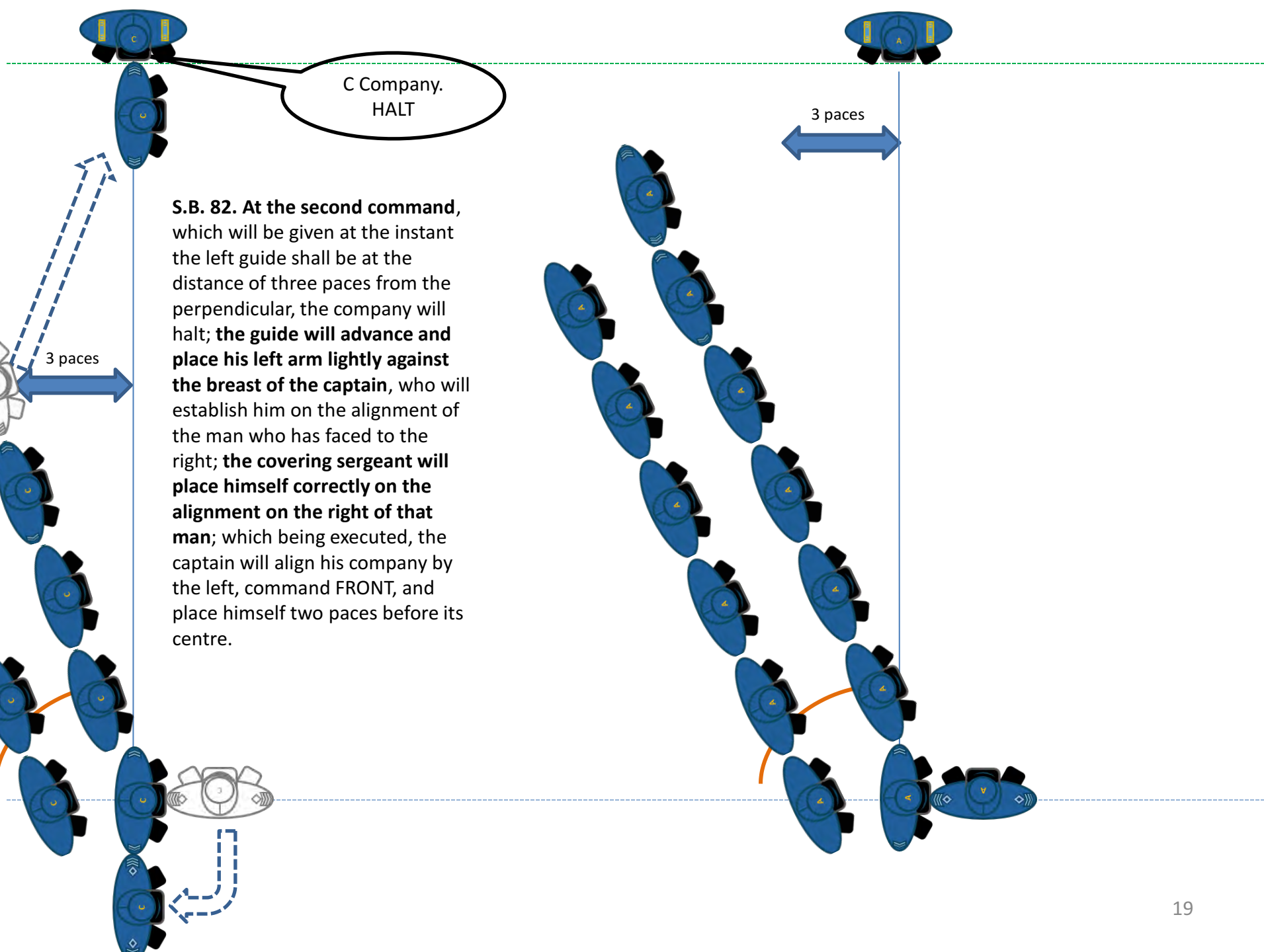
S.B. 81. ... the left guide, as soon as he can pass, will place himself on the left of the front rank to conduct the marching flank, ...

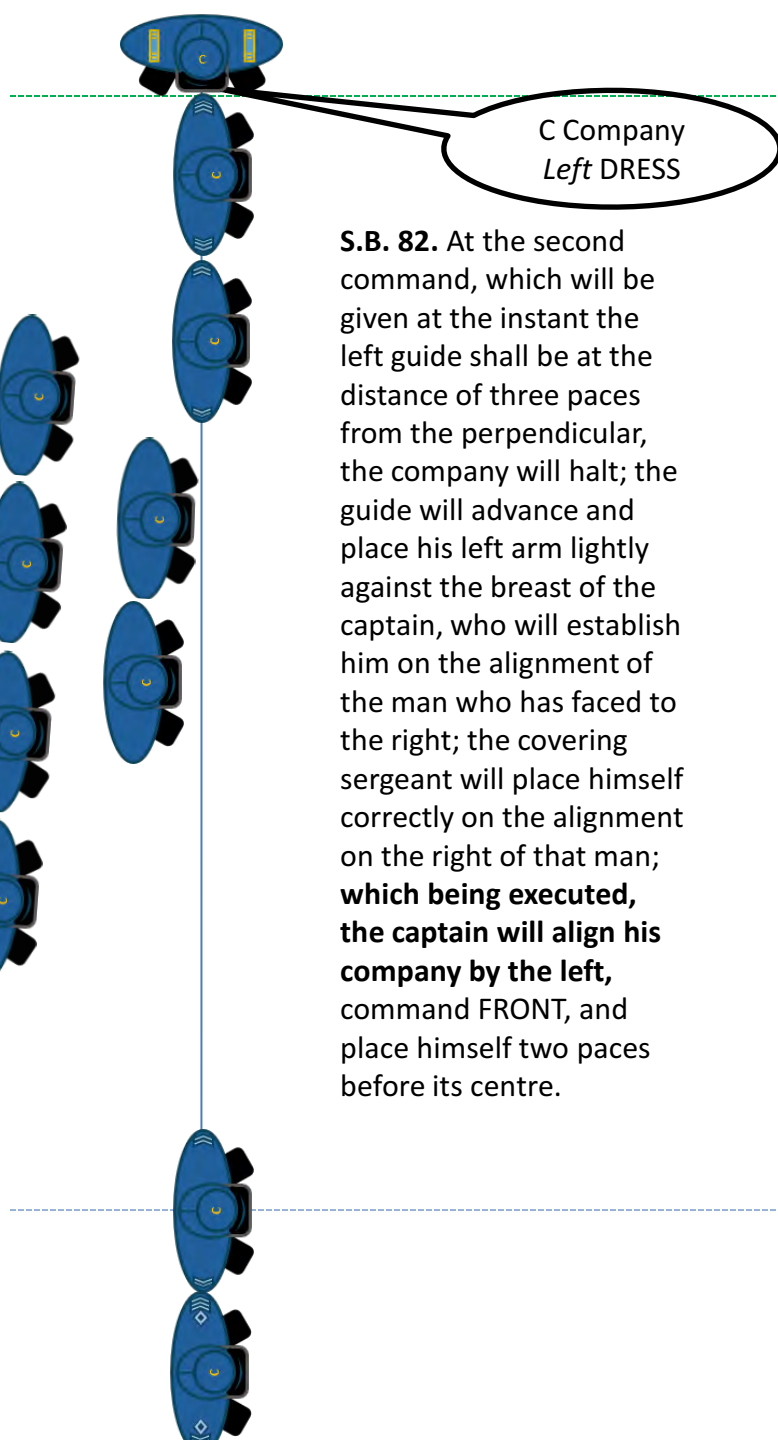
Detail for the movement of the front-rank man that is next to the front-rank-man-that-faced is provided in instruction 199 appearing in the Remarks section of Lesson 5, Article 1.

S.C. 199. The instructor will observe, that the man on the right (or left) of each platoon, who, at the command march, faces to the right (or left) being the true pivot of the wheel, the front-rank man next to him ought to gain a little ground to the front in wheeling, so as to clear the pivot-man.

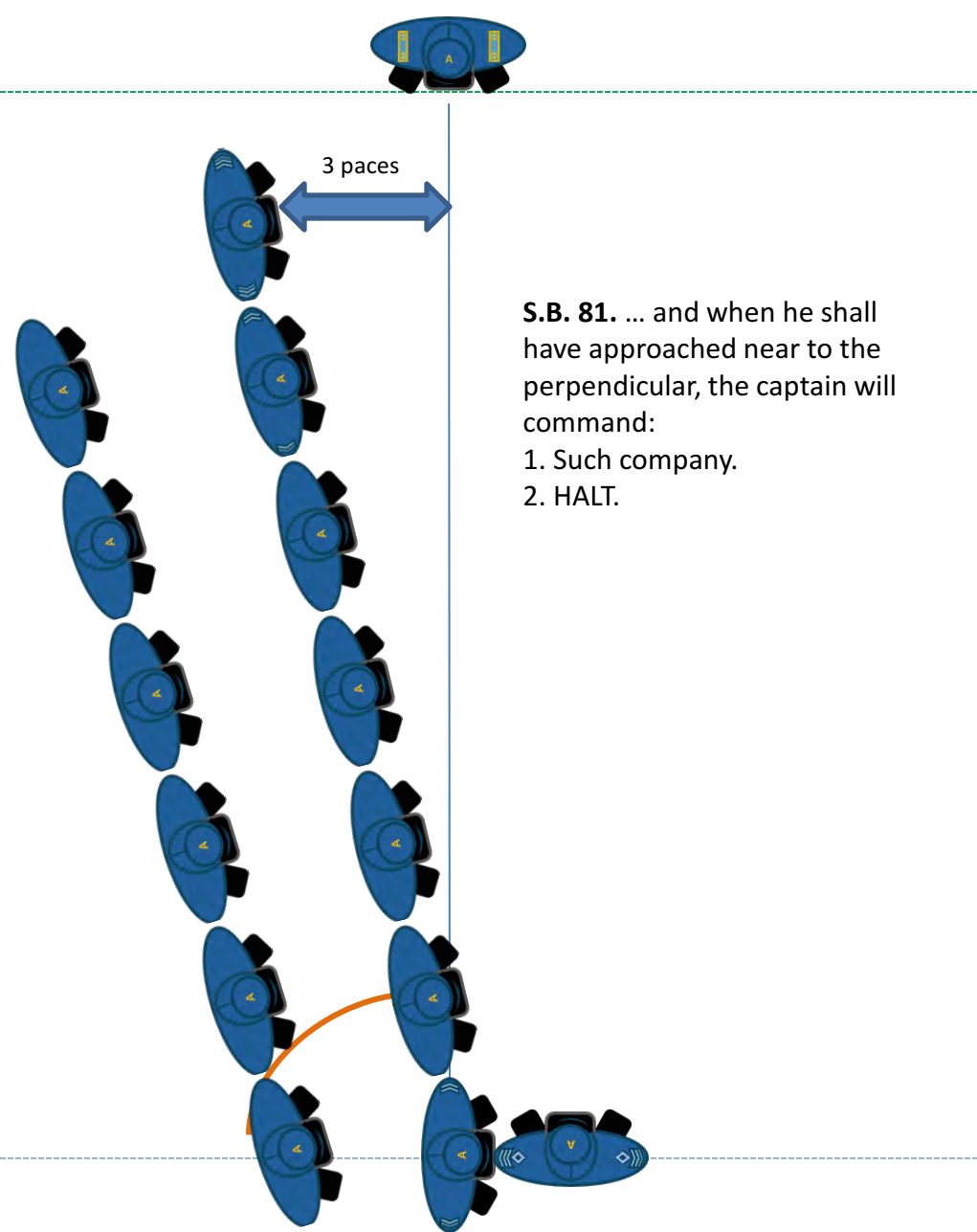


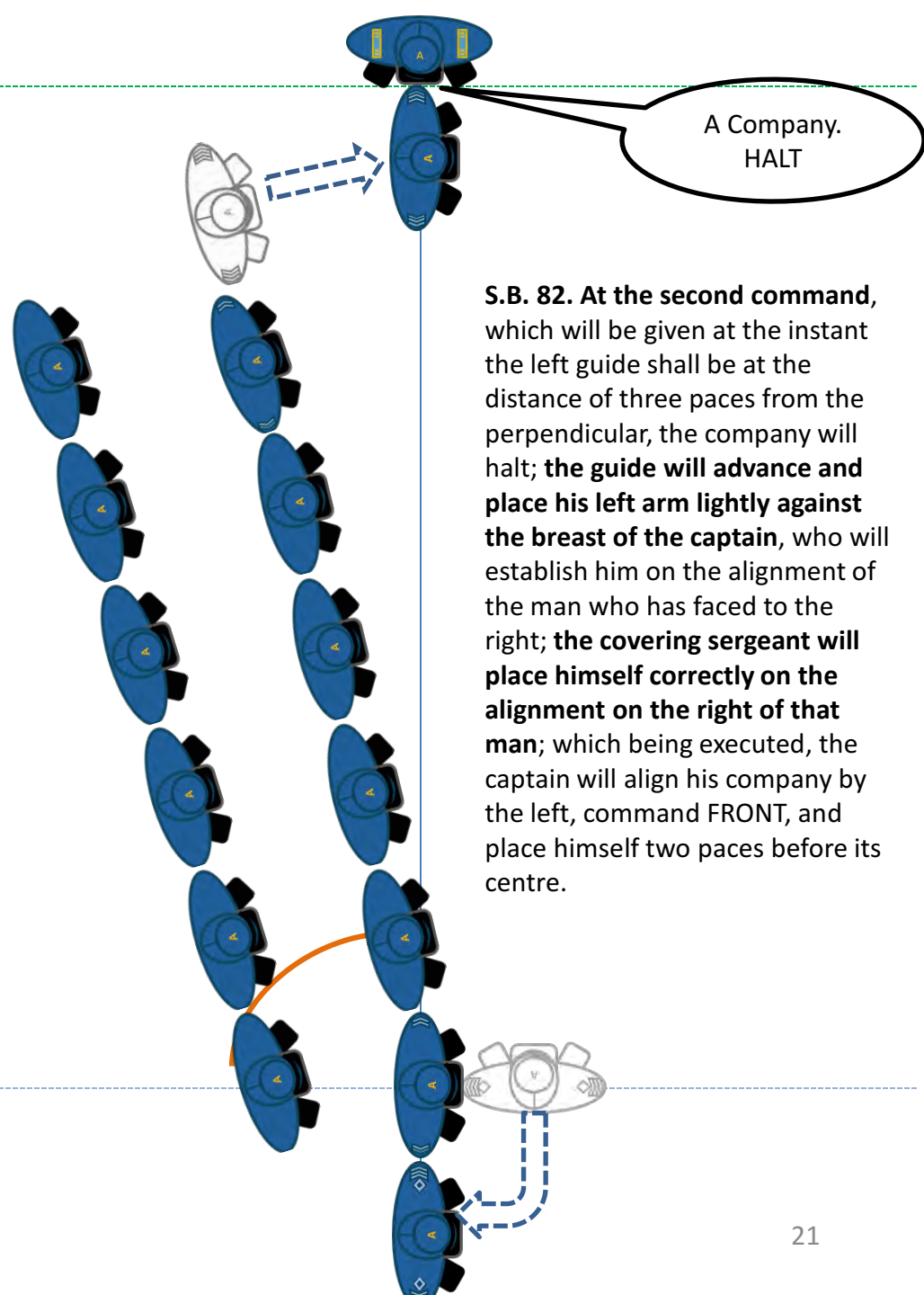
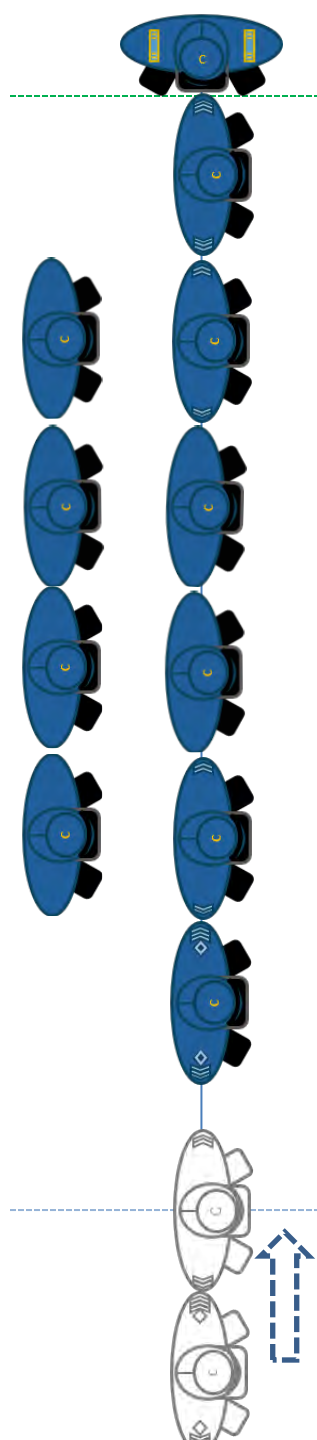


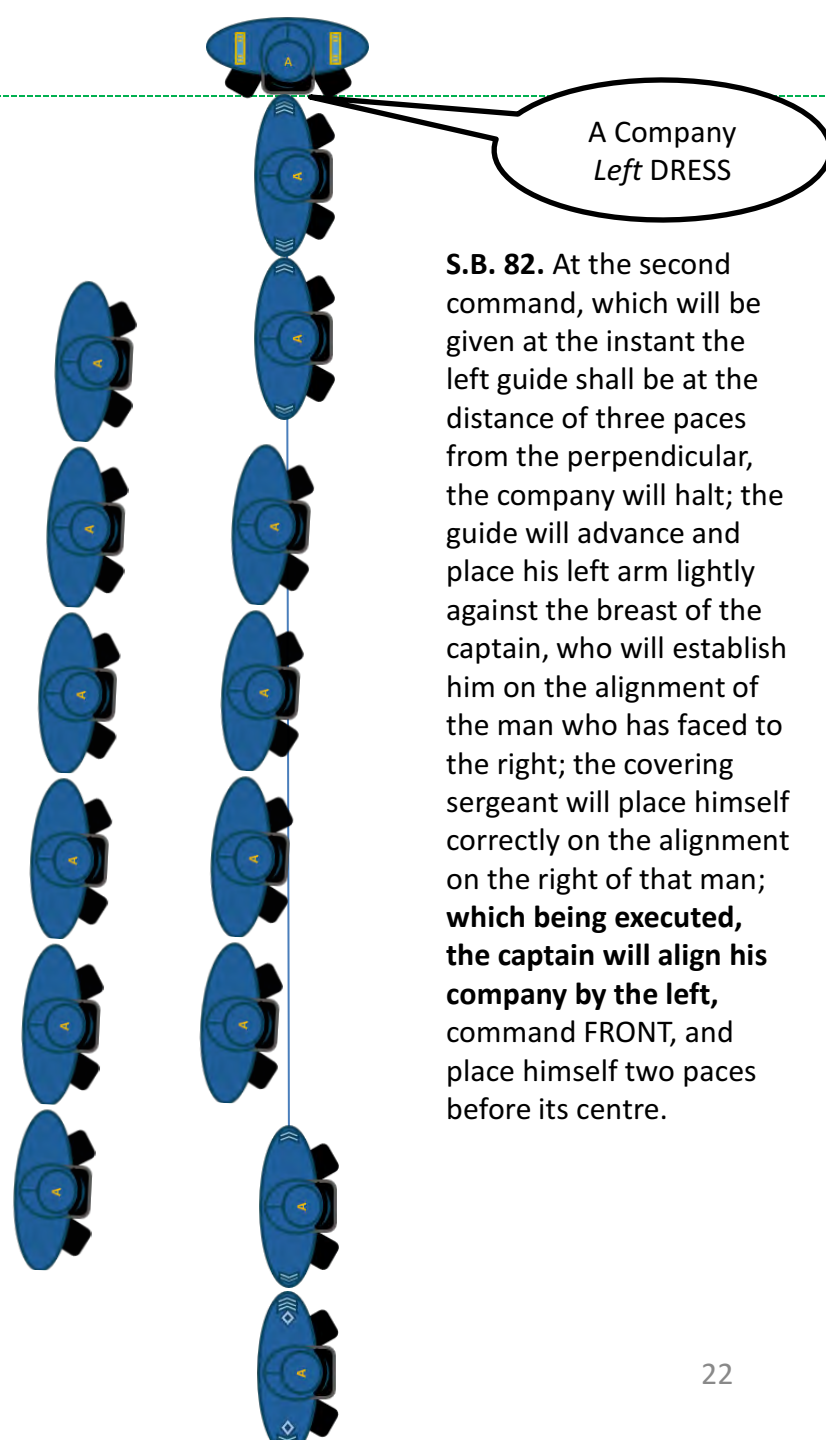
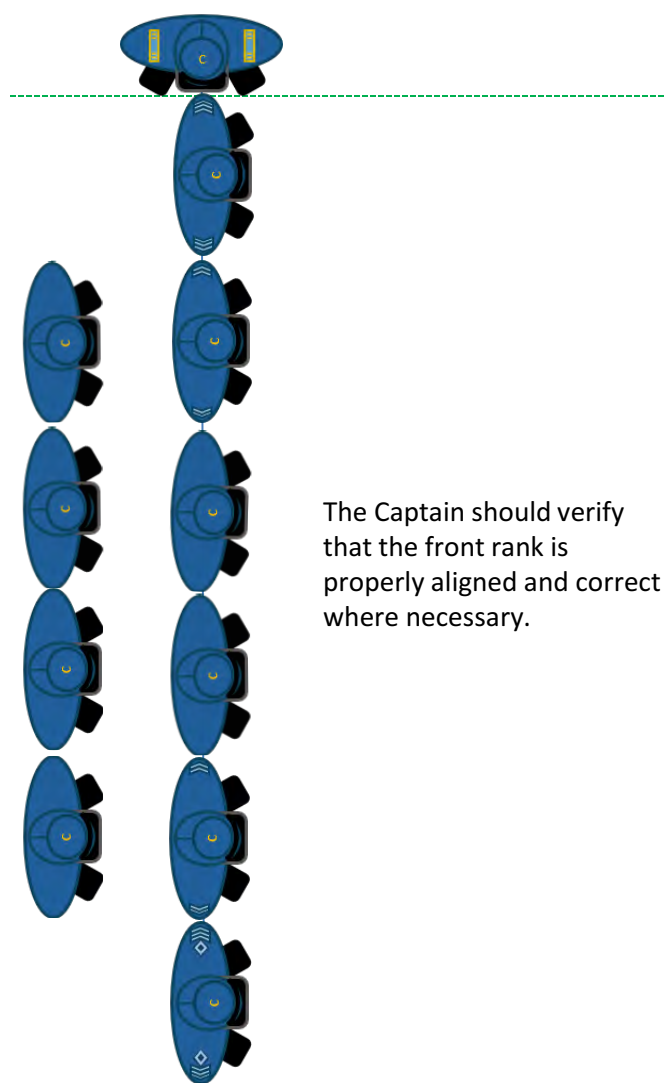


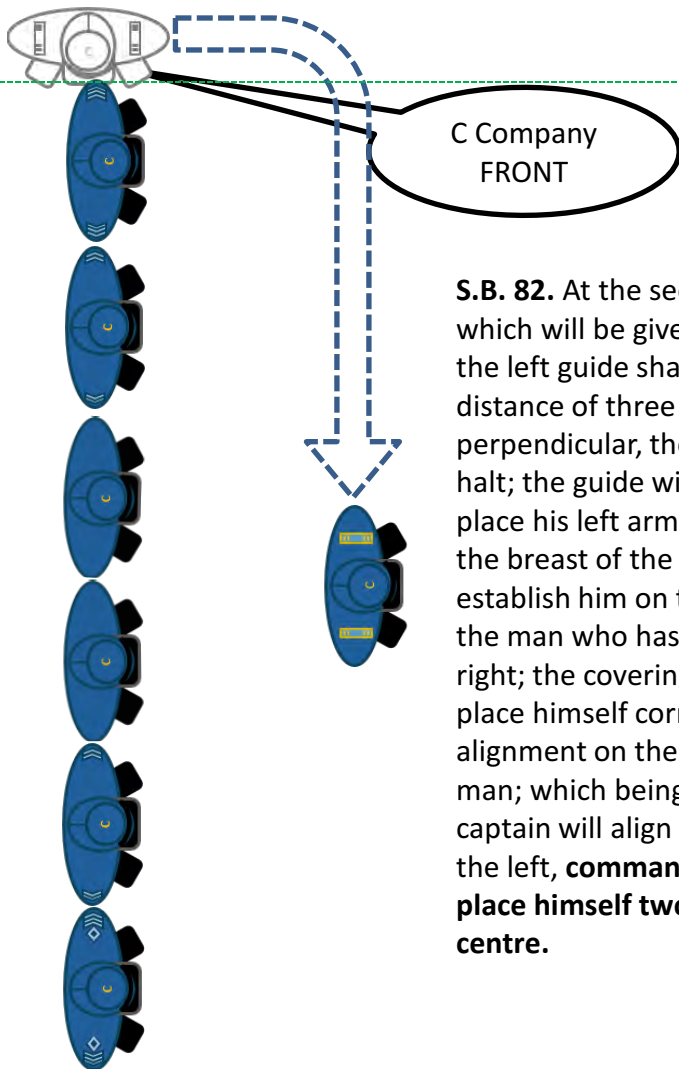


S.B. 82. At the second command, which will be given at the instant the left guide shall be at the distance of three paces from the perpendicular, the company will halt; the guide will advance and place his left arm lightly against the breast of the captain, who will establish him on the alignment of the man who has faced to the right; the covering sergeant will place himself correctly on the alignment on the right of that man; **which being executed, the captain will align his company by the left,** command FRONT, and place himself two paces before its centre.

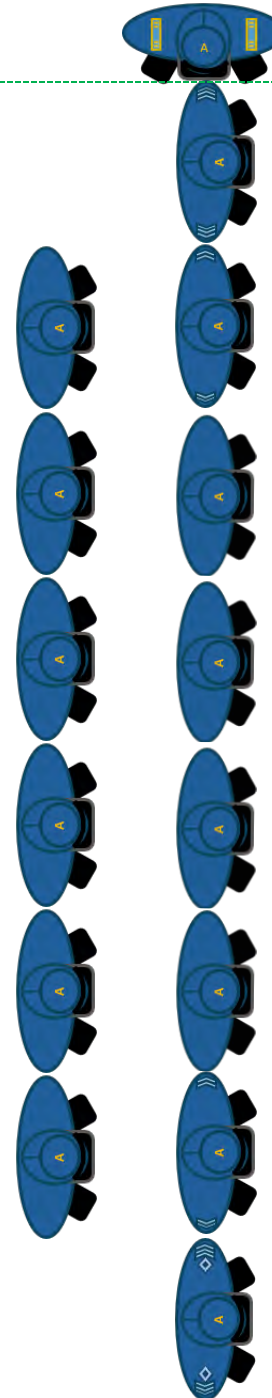




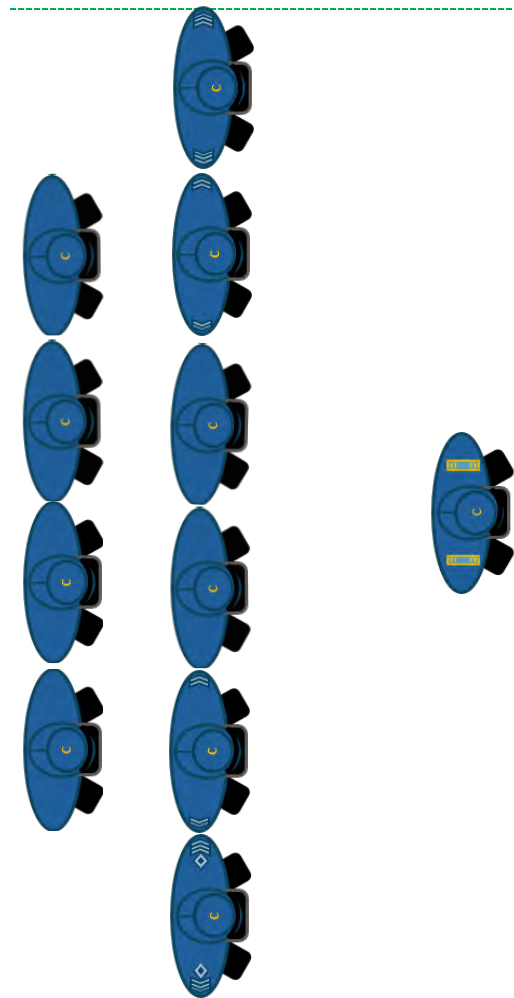




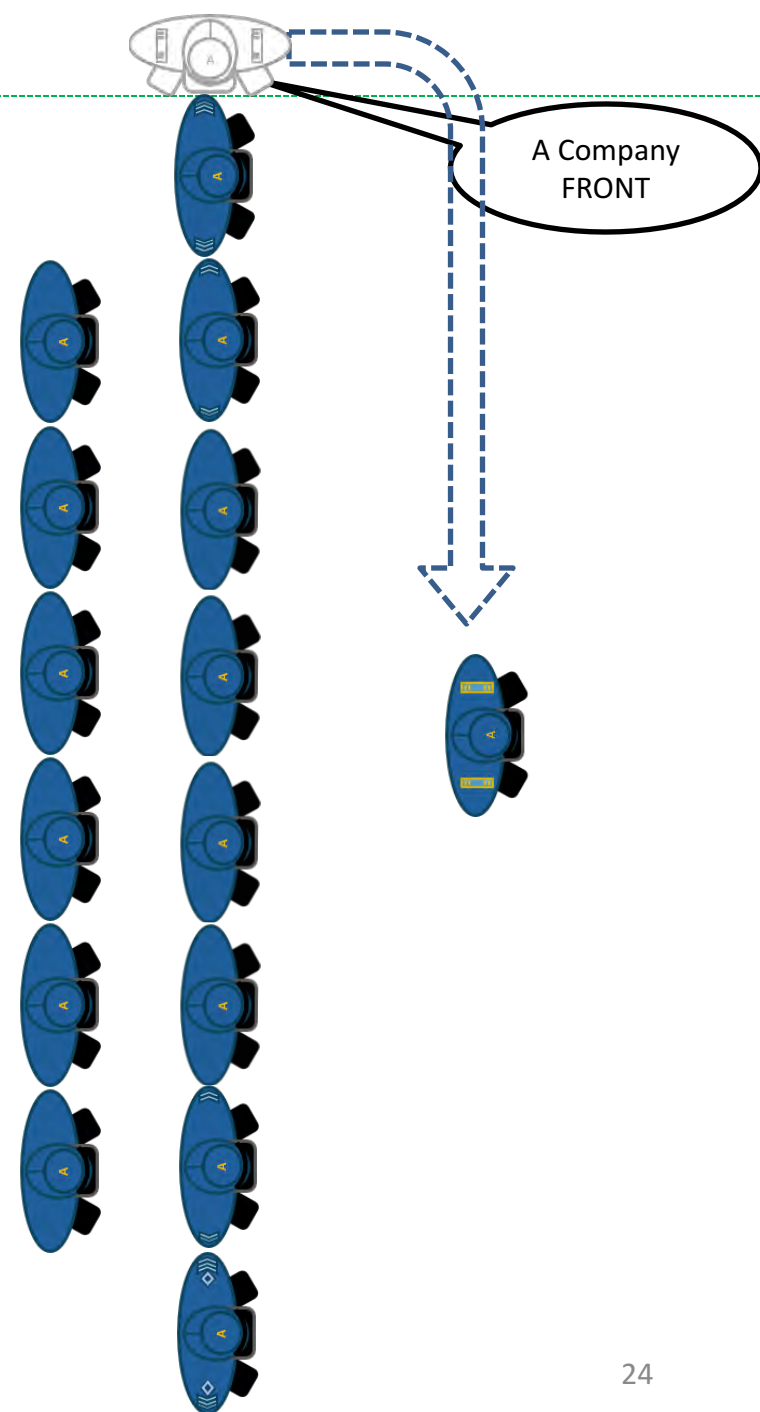
S.B. 82. At the second command, which will be given at the instant the left guide shall be at the distance of three paces from the perpendicular, the company will halt; the guide will advance and place his left arm lightly against the breast of the captain, who will establish him on the alignment of the man who has faced to the right; the covering sergeant will place himself correctly on the alignment on the right of that man; which being executed, the captain will align his company by the left, **command FRONT, and place himself two paces before its centre.**

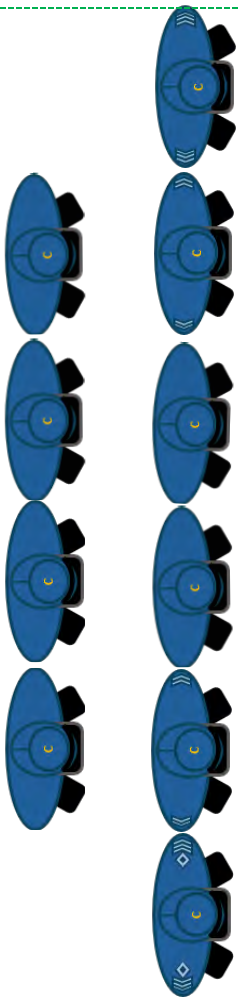


The Captain should verify that the front rank is properly aligned and correct where necessary.

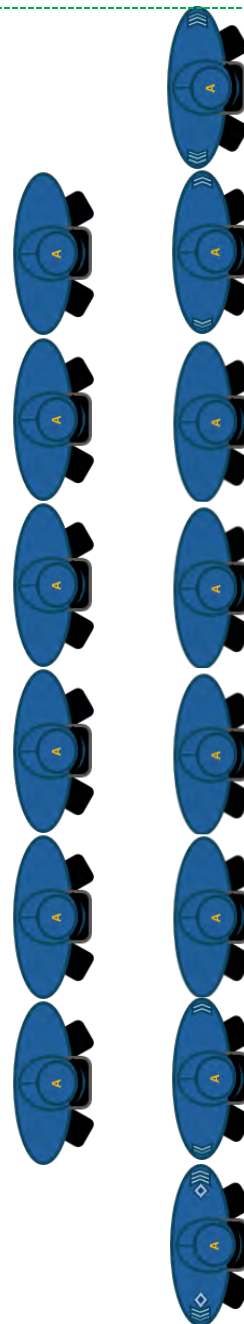


S.B. 82. At the second command, which will be given at the instant the left guide shall be at the distance of three paces from the perpendicular, the company will halt; the guide will advance and place his left arm lightly against the breast of the captain, who will establish him on the alignment of the man who has faced to the right; the covering sergeant will place himself correctly on the alignment on the right of that man; which being executed, the captain will align his company by the left, **command FRONT**, and place himself two paces before its centre.

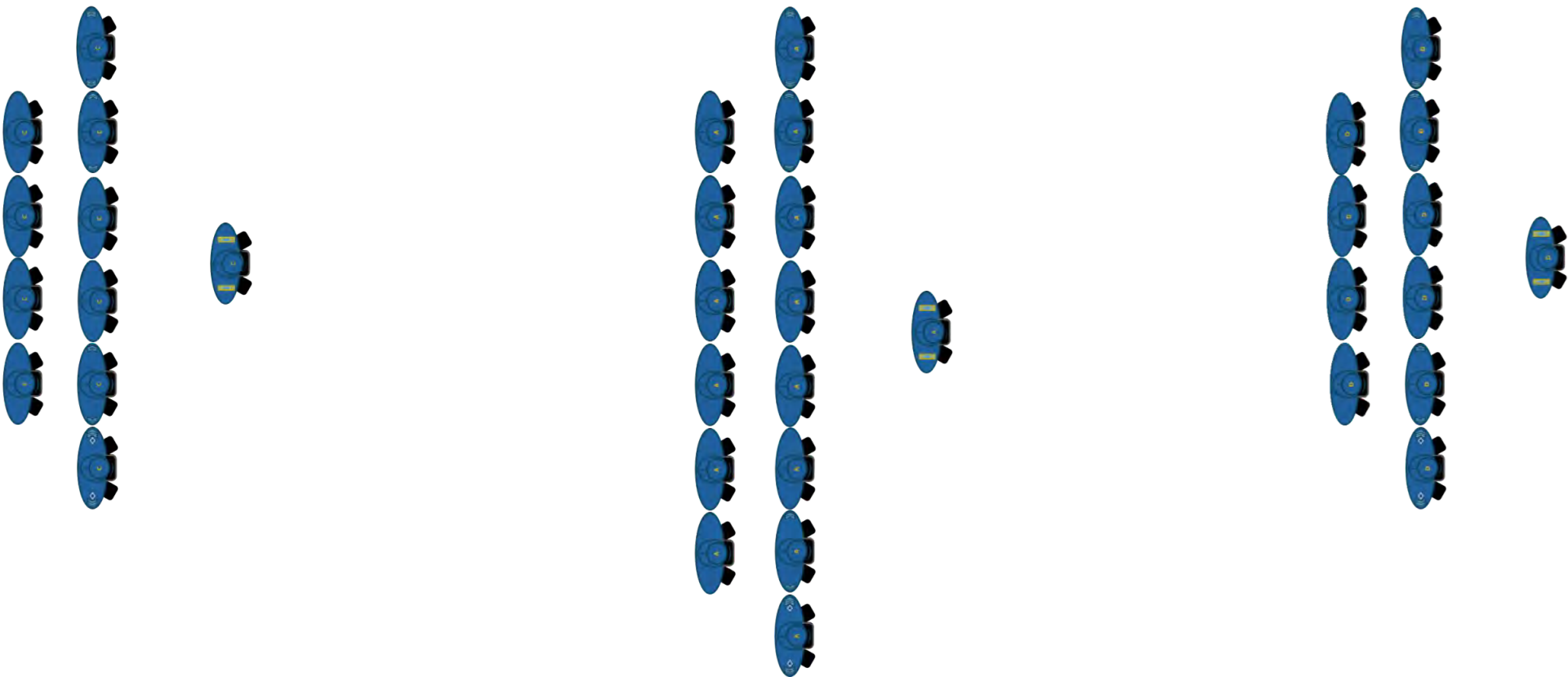




All wheels completed.



The Battalion passed from the Order in Battle to the Order in Column Halted



SCHOOL OF THE BATTALION.

ARTICLE I.

To break to the right or the left into column.

From HALT to MARCHING

S.B. 97. When the colonel shall wish to move the column forward without halting it, he will caution the battalion to that effect, and command:

1. By company, right wheel. 2. MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).

S.B. 98. At the first command, the captains of companies will execute what is prescribed for breaking into column from a halt.

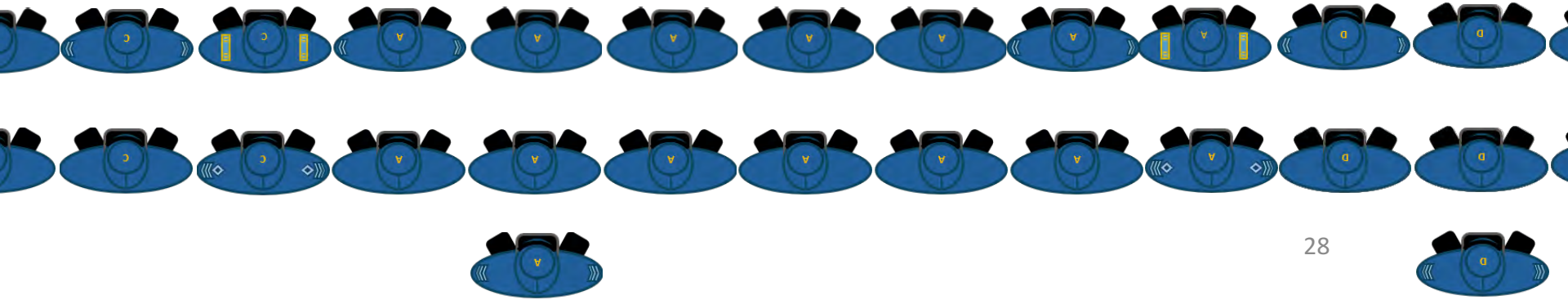
S.B. 99. At the second command, they will remain in front of their companies to superintend the movement; the companies will wheel to the right on fixed pivots as indicated in the S. C., No. 190; the left guides will conform to what is prescribed above; when they shall arrive near the perpendicular, the colonel will command:

3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.

S.B. 100. At the third command, each covering sergeant will place himself by the right side of the man on the right of the front rank of his company. At the fourth command, which will be given at the instant the wheel is completed, the companies will cease to wheel, and march straight forward. At the fifth, the men will take the touch of elbows to the left. The leading guide will march in the direction indicated to him by the lieutenant colonel. The guides will immediately conform themselves to the principles of the march in column, S. C., No. 205 and following.

S.C. 190. At the command march the platoons will wheel to the right, conforming to the principle herein prescribed; the man on the pivot will not face to the right, but will mark time, conforming himself to the movement of the marching flank; and when the man who is on the left of this flank shall arrive near the perpendicular, the instructor will command:

3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.



S.B. 97. When the colonel shall wish to move the column forward without halting it, he will caution the battalion to that effect, and command:

1. By company, right wheel.
2. MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).

NOTE:

Because the Colonel intends the Companies to march forward at the conclusion of the wheel, the line upon which the “marching flank will rest when the wheel shall be completed” is not marked in advance. Company guides will align themselves on the lead guide upon the march.

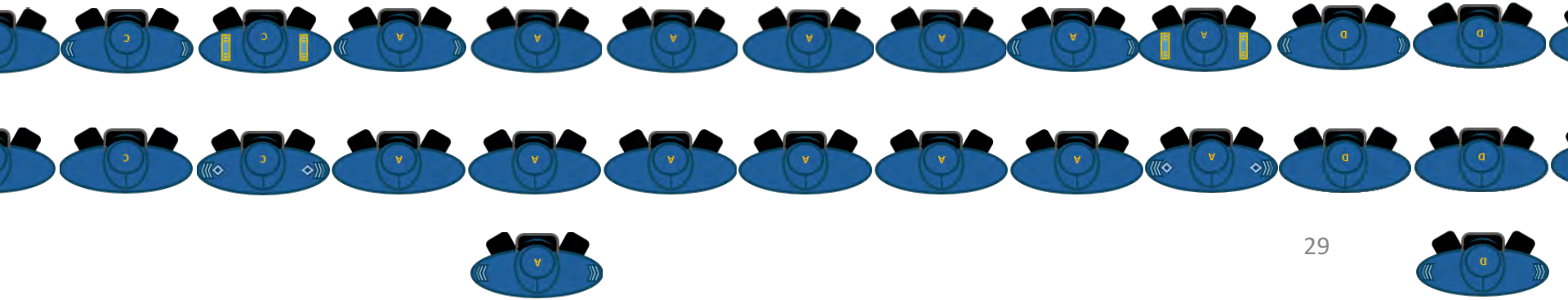
Per **S.B. 100.** At the third command, each covering sergeant will place himself by the right side of the man on the right of the front rank of his company. At the fourth command, which will be given at the instant the wheel is completed, the companies will cease to wheel, and march straight forward. At the fifth, the men will take the touch of elbows to the left. The leading guide will march in the direction indicated to him by the lieutenant colonel. The guides will immediately conform themselves to the principles of the march in column, S. C., No. 205 and following.

S.C. 205. The leading guide will observe, with the precision, the length and cadence of the step, and maintain the direction of his march by the means prescribed No. 89.

S.C. 206. 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 his same step with the leading guide.

S.C. 207. 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.

S.C. 208. 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, with 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.



S.B. 97. When the colonel shall wish to move the column forward without halting it, he will caution the battalion to that effect, and command:

- 1. By company, right wheel. 2. MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).

Before issuing the preparatory command, the Colonel should caution the Battalion as to the expected outcome of his command.

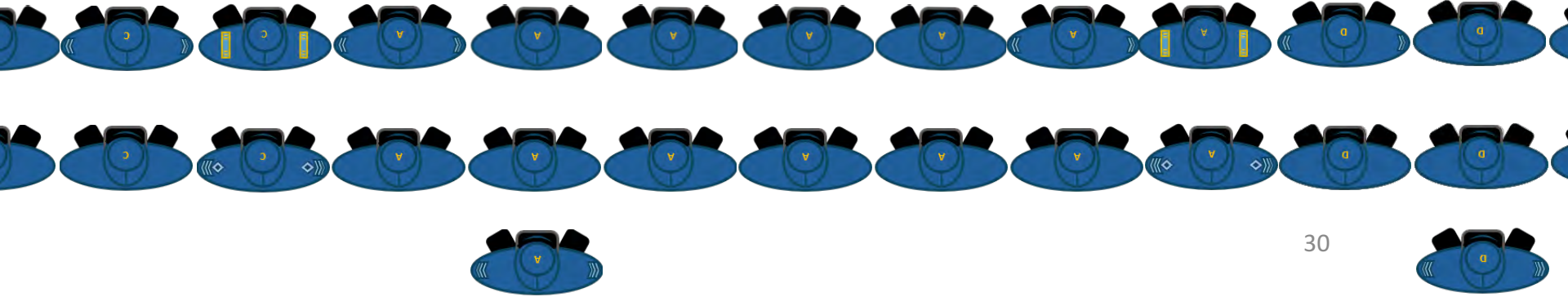
In particular, the fact that he wants to move the column forward without halting it.

Because that fact requires the Companies to execute the wheel differently.



Battalion.
“Break by Company into Column to the right.”
(Or “Form Column of Companies on the First Company.”)

Communicate your intention, e.g.,:
Captains.
The Battalion will march forward at the conclusion of the wheel.



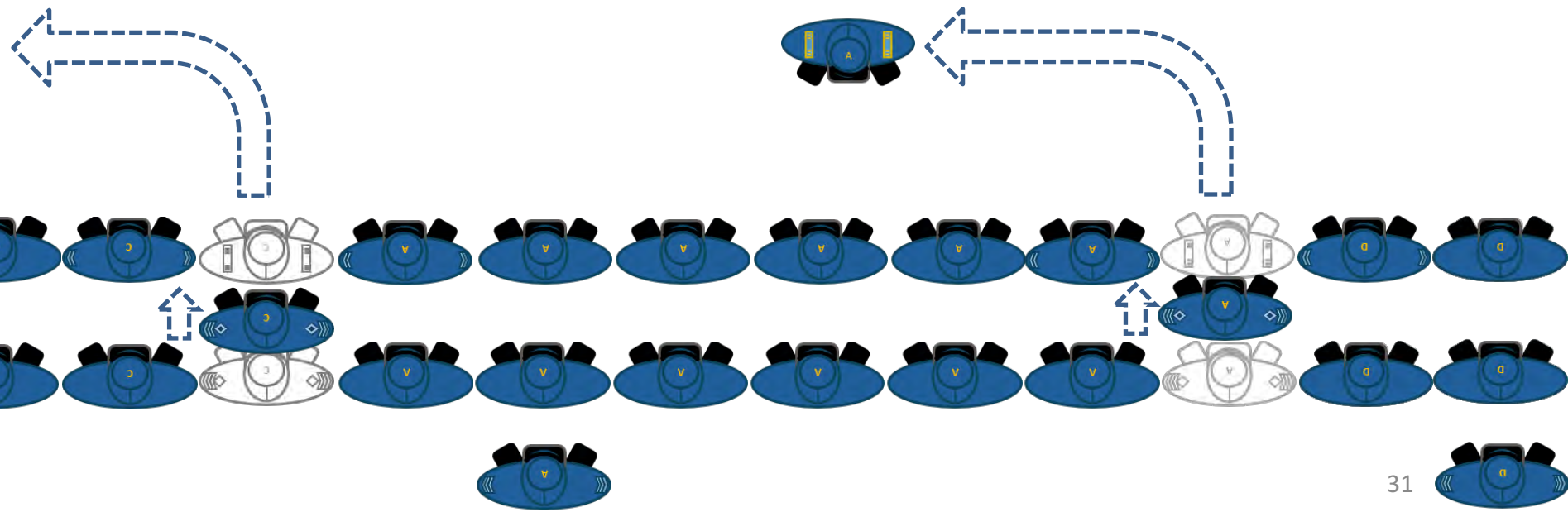
S.B. 98. At the first command, the captains of companies will execute what is prescribed for breaking into column from a halt.

S.B. 79. At the first command, each captain will place himself rapidly before the centre of his company, and caution it that it has to wheel to the right; each covering sergeant will replace his captain in the front rank.

By company, right wheel.

Note:

- The Colonel needs to pause between the preparatory command and the command of execution.
 - He needs to allow the Captain and First Sergeant to move to their positions.
 - He needs to allow the Captain to caution his men that they are about to wheel on a fixed pivot.



S.B. 98. At the first command, the captains of companies will execute what is prescribed for breaking into column from a halt.

S.B. 79. At the first command, each captain will place himself rapidly before the centre of his company, and caution it that it has to wheel to the right; each covering sergeant will replace his captain in the front rank.



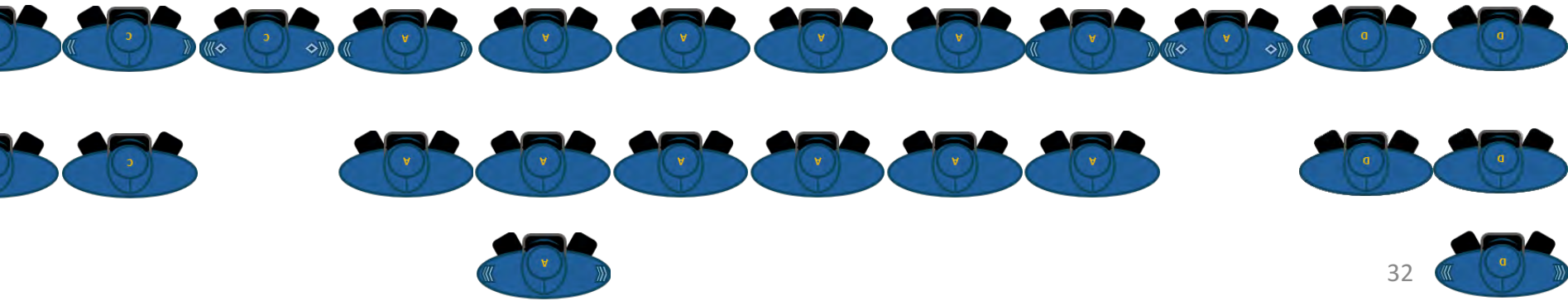
Note:

- Regarding the “caution”
- The Captain should:
 - remind the Company that they are executing a wheel on a fixed pivot,
 - inform the Company they will be moving forward as soon as they complete the wheel,
 - remind the 1st Corporal that he needs to perform a right face,
 - remind the 1st Sergeant to stand fast.

“caution” the men, e.g.:
A Company,
We will be marching forward at the conclusion of the wheel.
Prepare to wheel on a fixed pivot to the right.

1st Corporal,
You will NOT face to the right. You will mark time.

1st Sergeant,
You will stand fast.

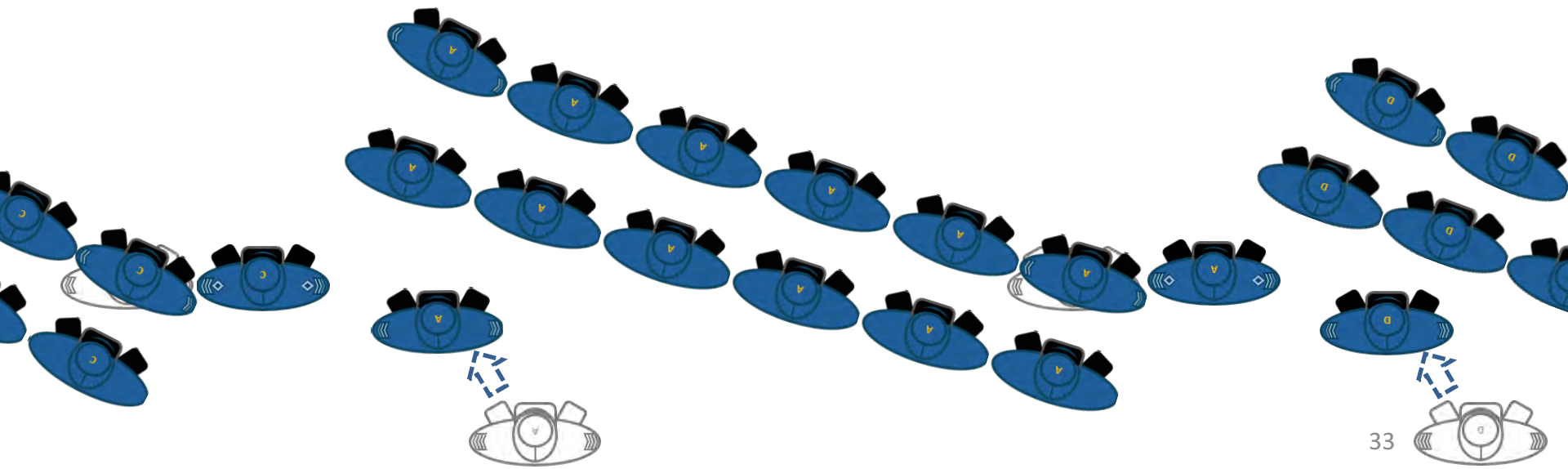
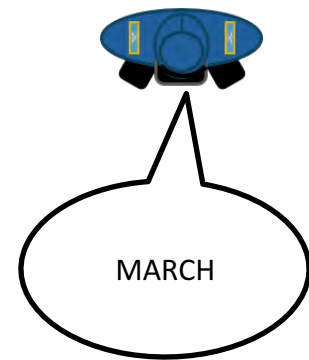


S.B. 99. At the second command, they will remain in front of their companies to superintend the movement; the companies will wheel to the right on fixed pivots as indicated in the S. C., No. 190; the left guides will conform to what is prescribed above; when they shall arrive near the perpendicular, the colonel will command:

3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.

S.C. 190. At the command march the platoons will wheel to the right, conforming to the principle herein prescribed; the man on the pivot will not face to the right, but will mark time, conforming himself to the movement of the marching flank; and when the man who is on the left of this flank shall arrive near the perpendicular, the instructor will command:

3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.

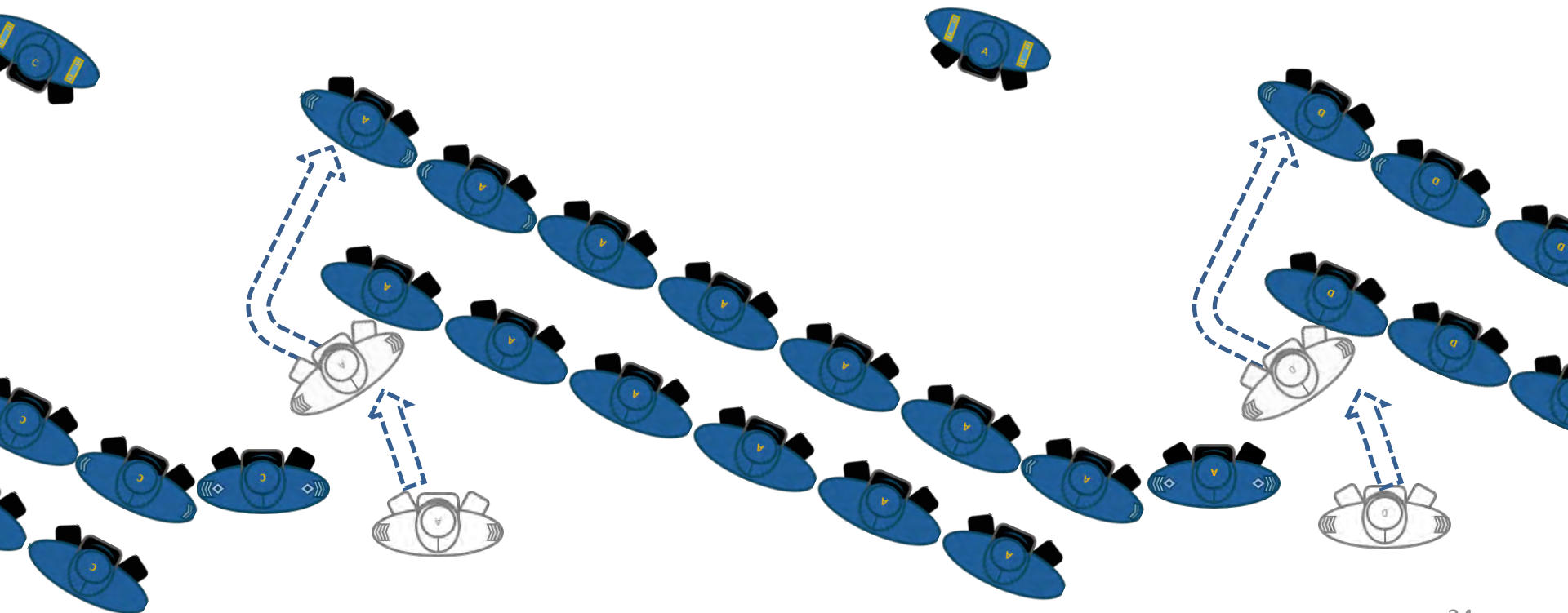


S.B. 99. At the second command, they will remain in front of their companies to superintend the movement; the companies will wheel to the right on fixed pivots as indicated in the S. C., No. 190; the left guides will conform to what is prescribed above; when they shall arrive near the perpendicular, the colonel will command:

3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.

S.C. 190. At the command march the platoons will wheel to the right, conforming to the principle herein prescribed; the man on the pivot will not face to the right, but will mark time, conforming himself to the movement of the marching flank; and when the man who is on the left of this flank shall arrive near the perpendicular, the instructor will command:

3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.



S.B. 99. At the second command, they will remain in front of their companies to superintend the movement; the companies will wheel to the right on fixed pivots as indicated in the S. C., No. 190; the left guides will conform to what is prescribed above; when they shall arrive near the perpendicular, the colonel will command:

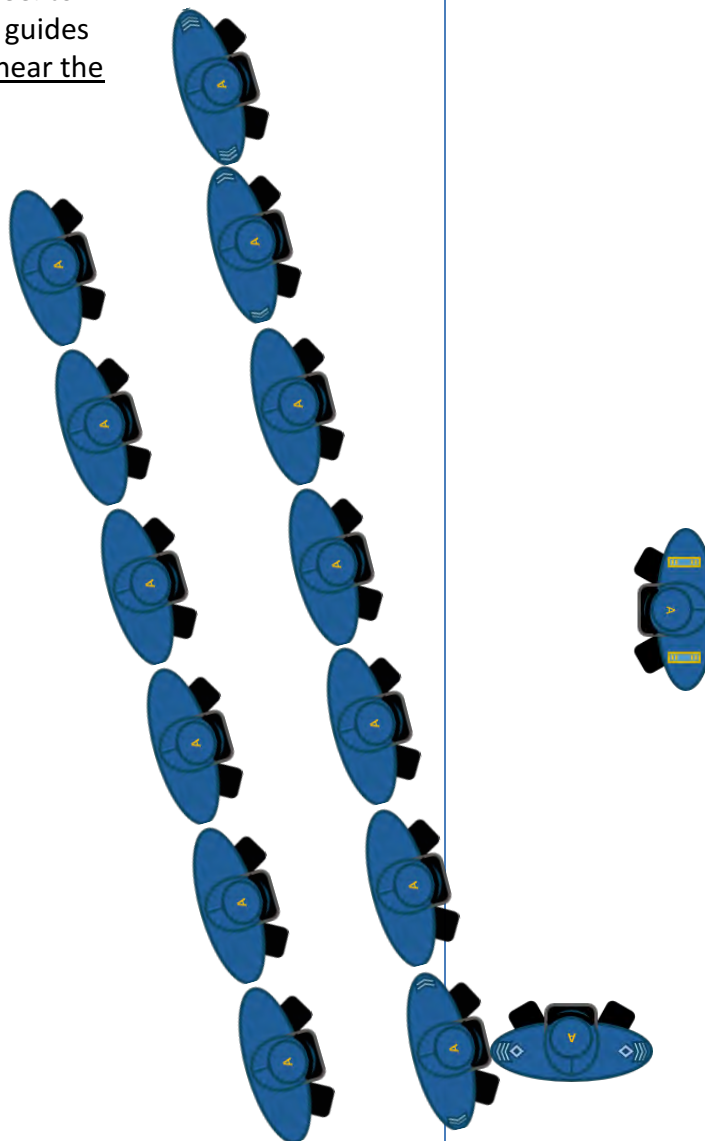
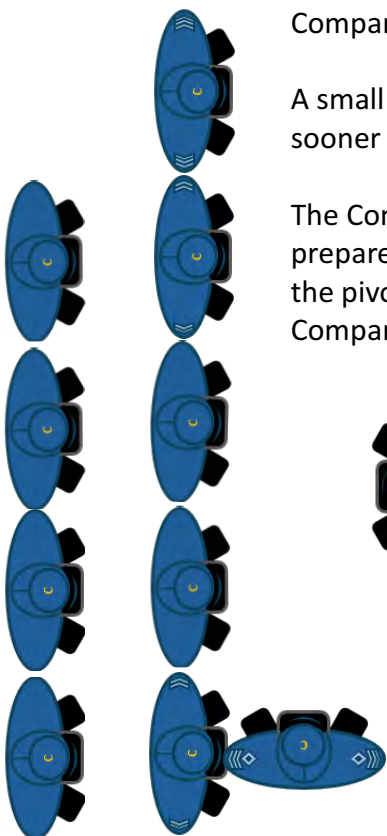
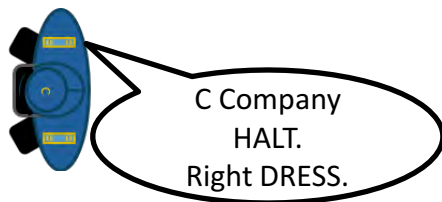
3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.

NOTE:

Here's an issue caused by different size Companies.

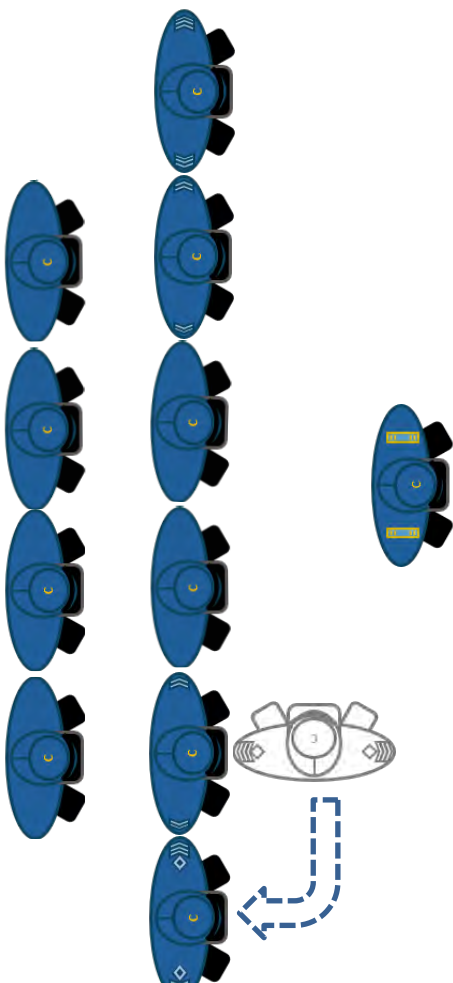
A small Company will complete its wheel sooner than a larger Company.

The Company commander needs to be prepared to call HALT his Company, DRESS to the pivot-man, and wait until the largest Company arrives near the perpendicular.

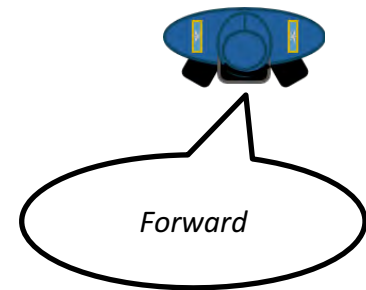
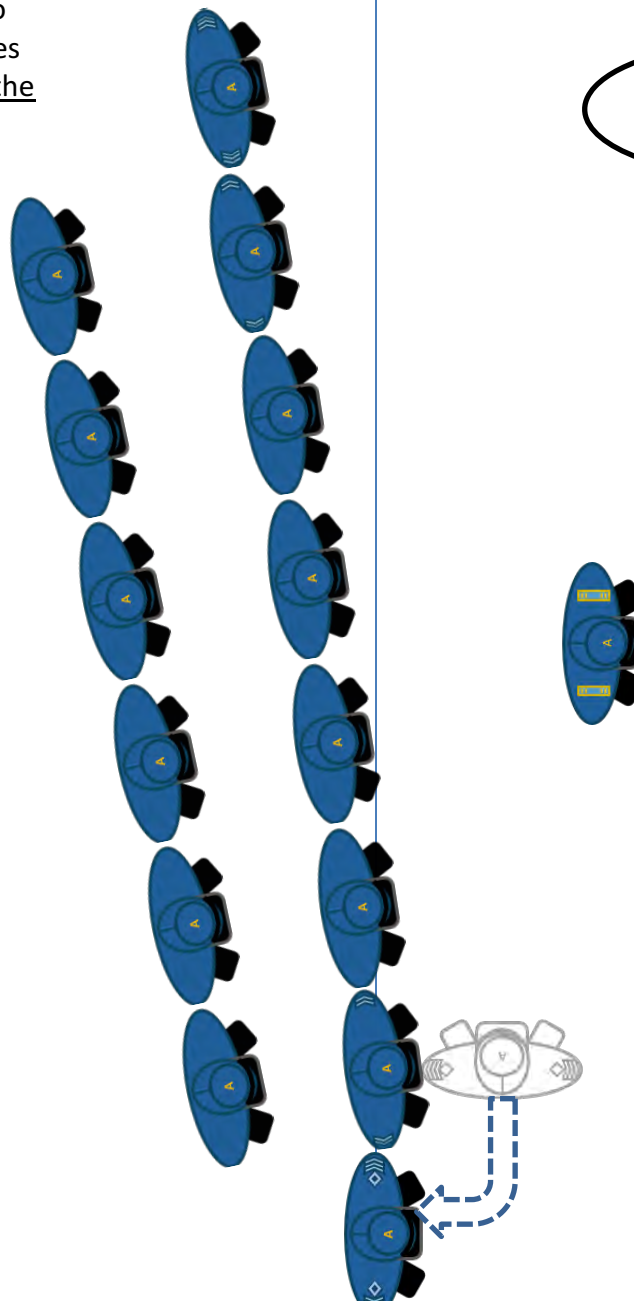


S.B. 99. At the second command, they will remain in front of their companies to superintend the movement; the companies will wheel to the right on fixed pivots as indicated in the S. C., No. 190; the left guides will conform to what is prescribed above; when they shall arrive near the perpendicular, the colonel will command:

3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.

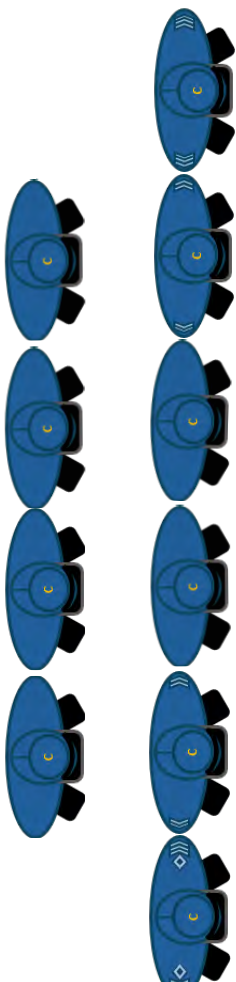


S.B. 100. At the third command, each covering sergeant will place himself by the right side of the man on the right of the front rank of his company. At the fourth command, which will be given at the instant the wheel is completed, the companies will cease to wheel, and march straight forward. At the fifth, the men will take the touch of elbows to the left. The leading guide will march in the direction indicated to him by the lieutenant colonel. The guides will immediately conform themselves to the principles of the march in column, S. C., No. 205 and following.

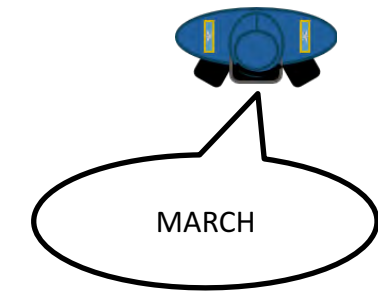
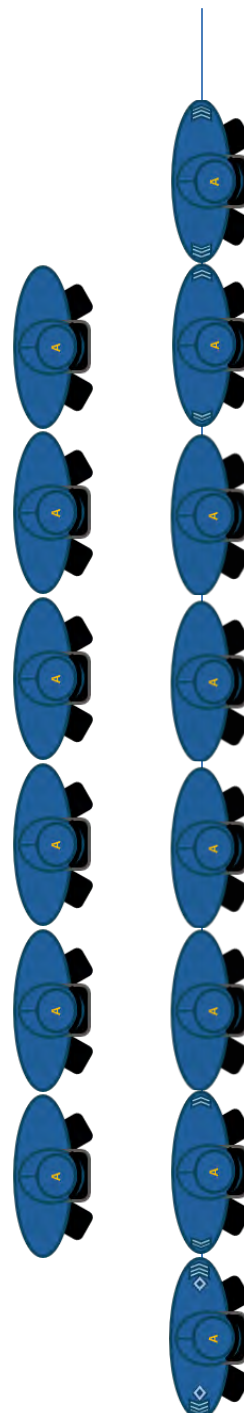


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3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.

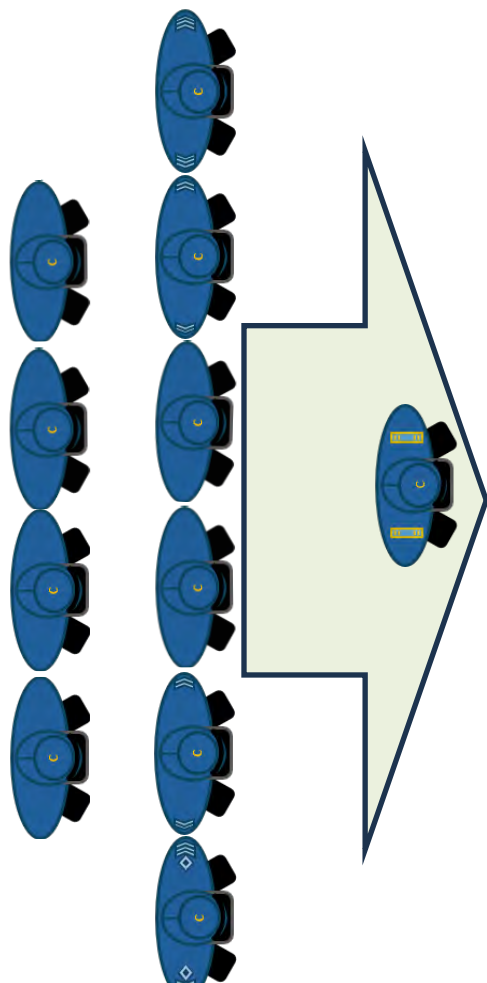


S.B. 100. At the third command, each covering sergeant will place himself by the right side of the man on the right of the front rank of his company. At the fourth command, which will be given at the instant the wheel is completed, the companies will cease to wheel, and march straight forward. At the fifth, the men will take the touch of elbows to the left. The leading guide will march in the direction indicated to him by the lieutenant colonel. The guides will immediately conform themselves to the principles of the march in column, S. C., No. 205 and following.

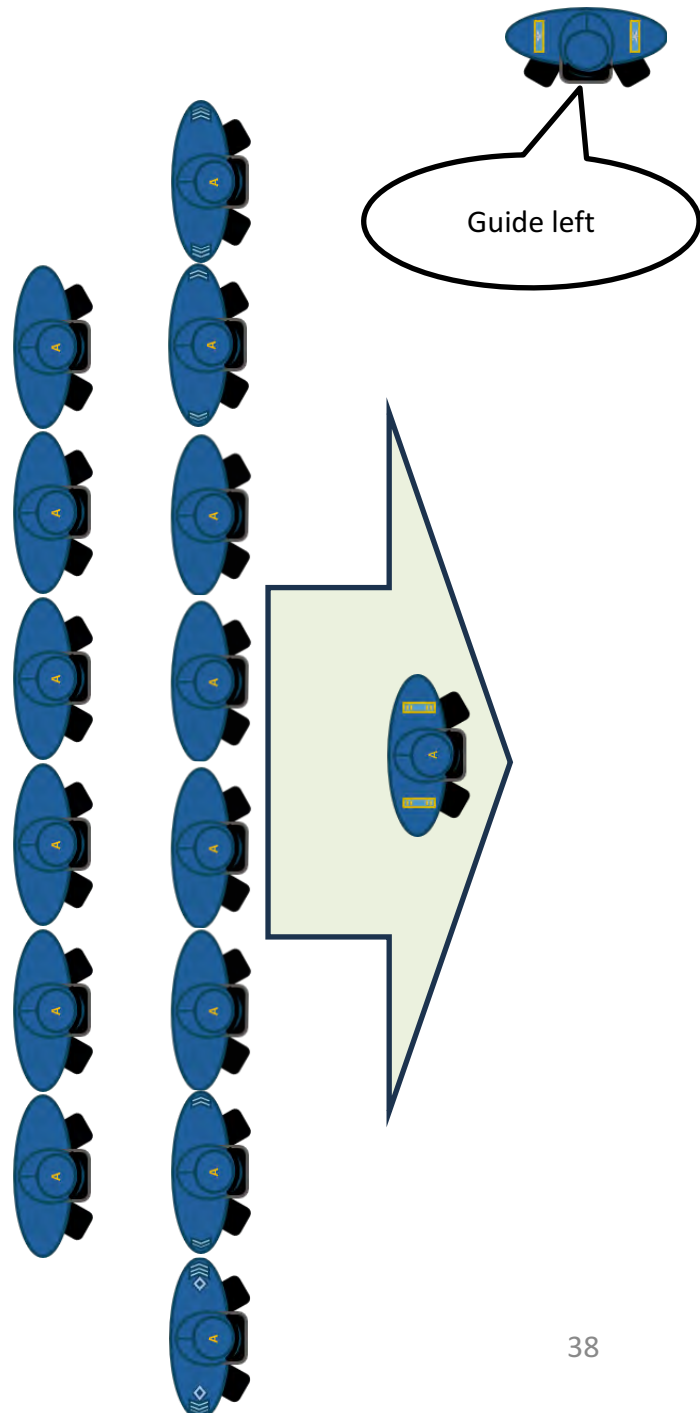


S.B. 99. At the second command, they will remain in front of their companies to superintend the movement; the companies will wheel to the right on fixed pivots as indicated in the S. C., No. 190; the left guides will conform to what is prescribed above; when they shall arrive near the perpendicular, the colonel will command:

3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.

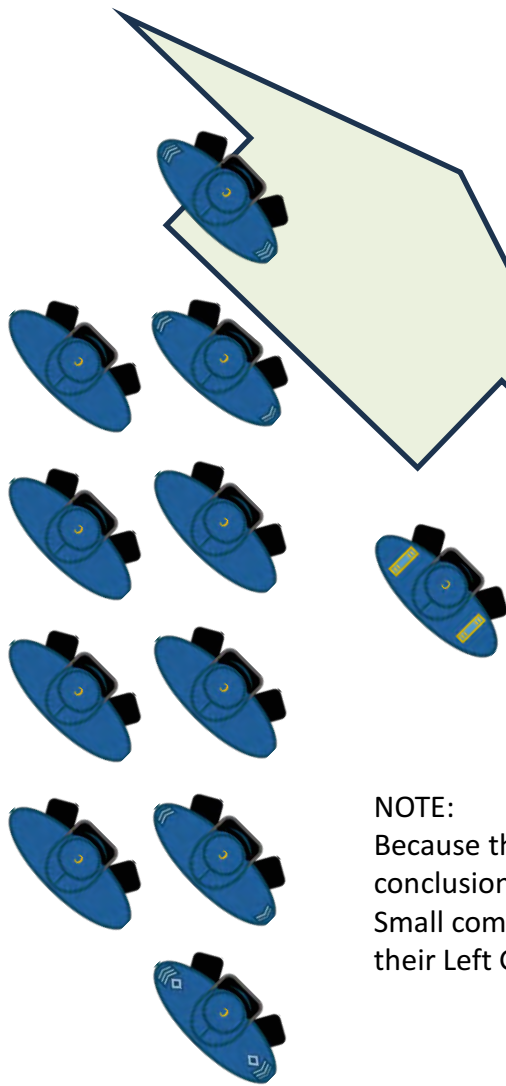


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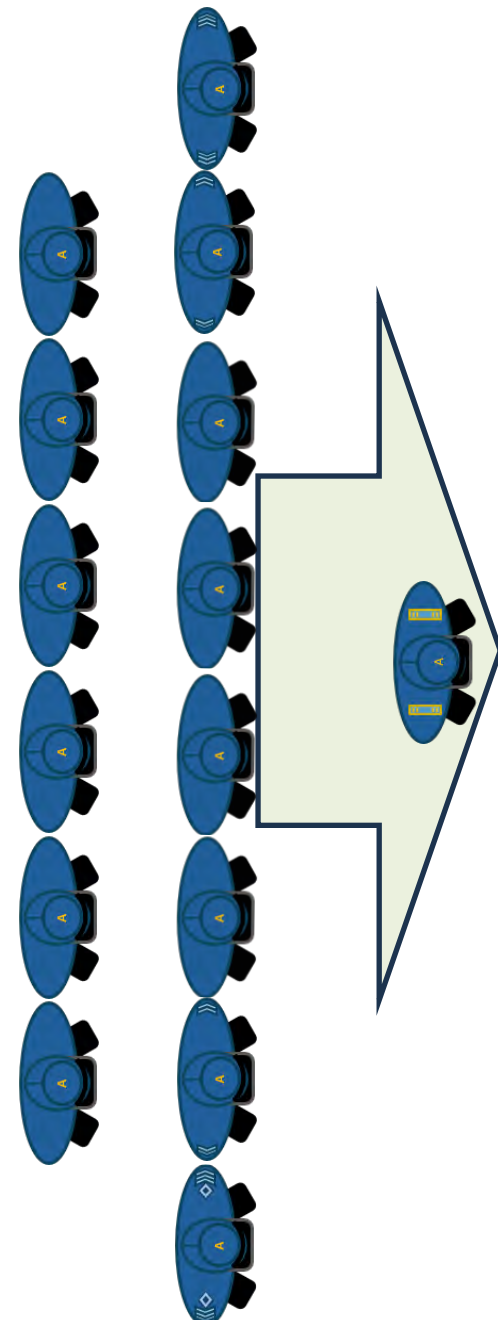
3. Forward. 4. MARCH. 5. Guide left.

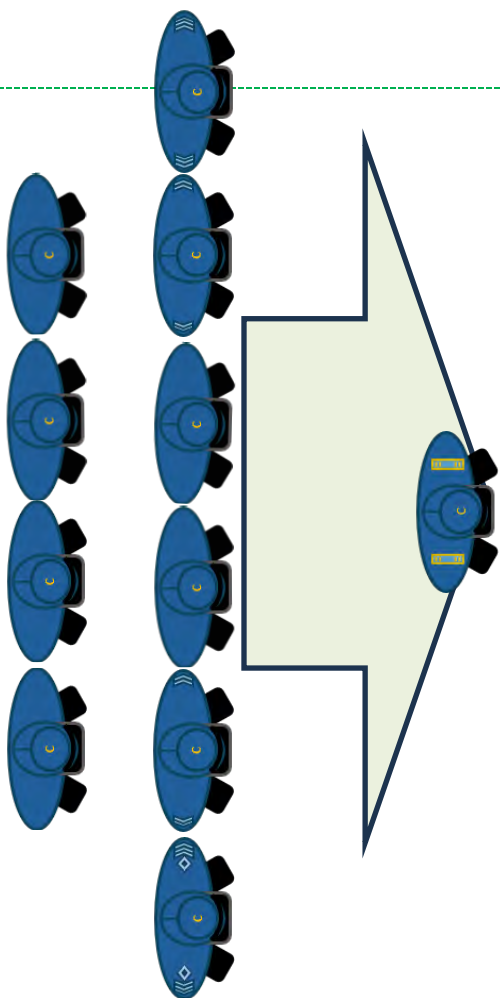


S.B. 100. At the third command, each covering sergeant will place himself by the right side of the man on the right of the front rank of his company. At the fourth command, which will be given at the instant the wheel is completed, the companies will cease to wheel, and march straight forward. At the fifth, the men will take the touch of elbows to the left. The leading guide will march in the direction indicated to him by the lieutenant colonel. The guides will immediately conform themselves to the principles of the march in column, S. C., No. 205 and following.

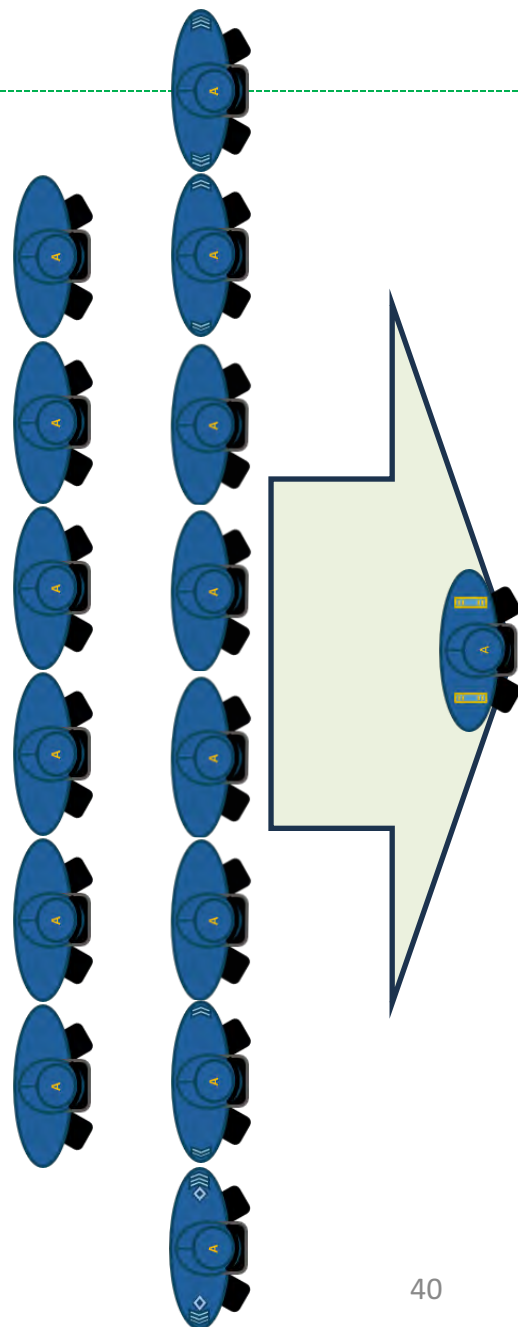
NOTE:

Because the wheels are executed on a fixed-pivot, at the conclusion of the wheels the Right-Guides will be aligned. Small companies may need to march at an oblique to align their Left Guide on the Battalion left guide

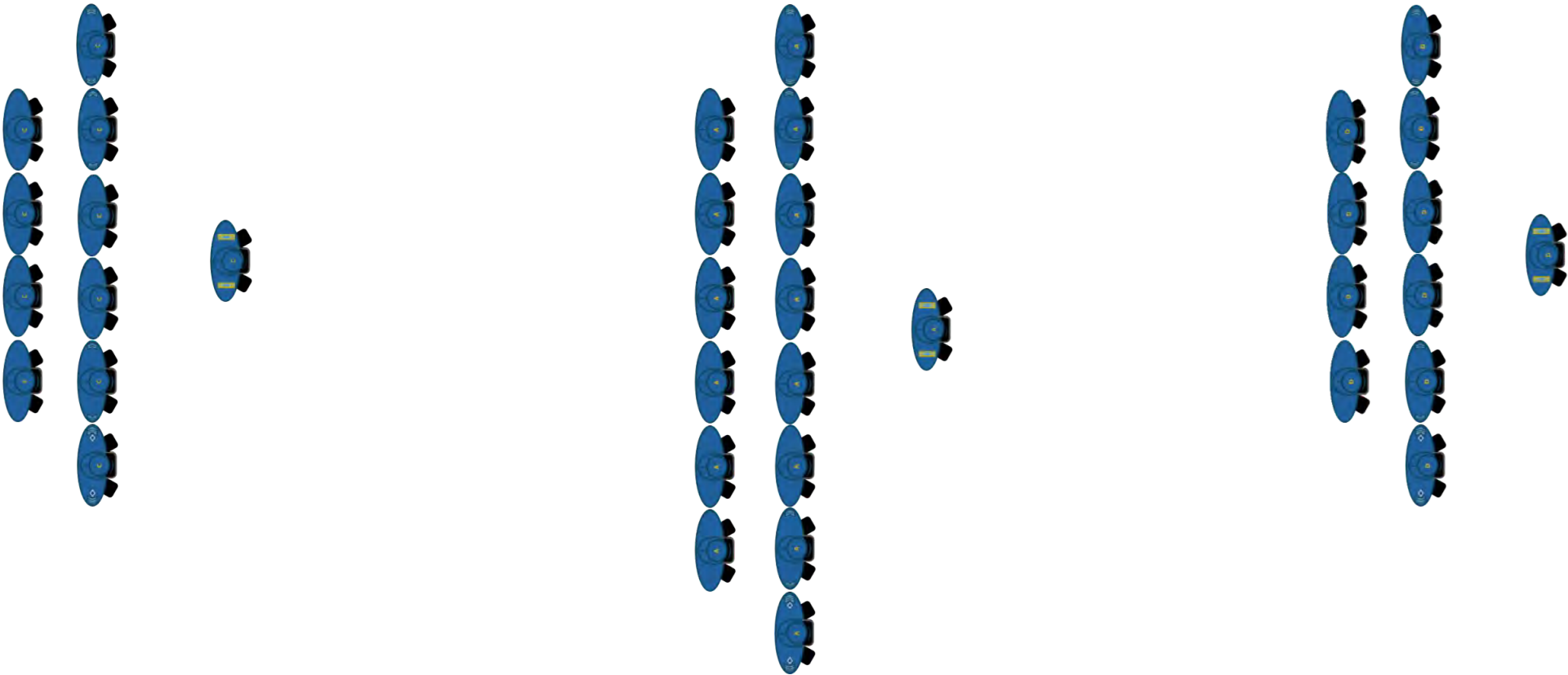




All Companies aligned on the Battalion Guide



Battalion passed from the Order in Battle to the Order in Column Marching



SCHOOL OF THE BATTALION.

ARTICLE II.

**Mode of passing from column at full distance
into line of battle.**

From HALT to HALT

When a Battalion passes from the Order in Battle to the Right (Left) into the Order in Column, the initial interval between two Companies is defined by the Company that was on the right (left).
E.g. The interval between D Company and A Company is the width of D Company that wheeled right into column.

Before Companies can pass from the Order in Column back to the Order in Battle, they must first establish their wheeling distance.

C Company

A Company

D Company

This interval is initially the width of A Company. It is larger than the wheeling distance needed by C Company.

This interval is initially the width of D Company. Which is smaller than the wheeling distance needed by A Company.

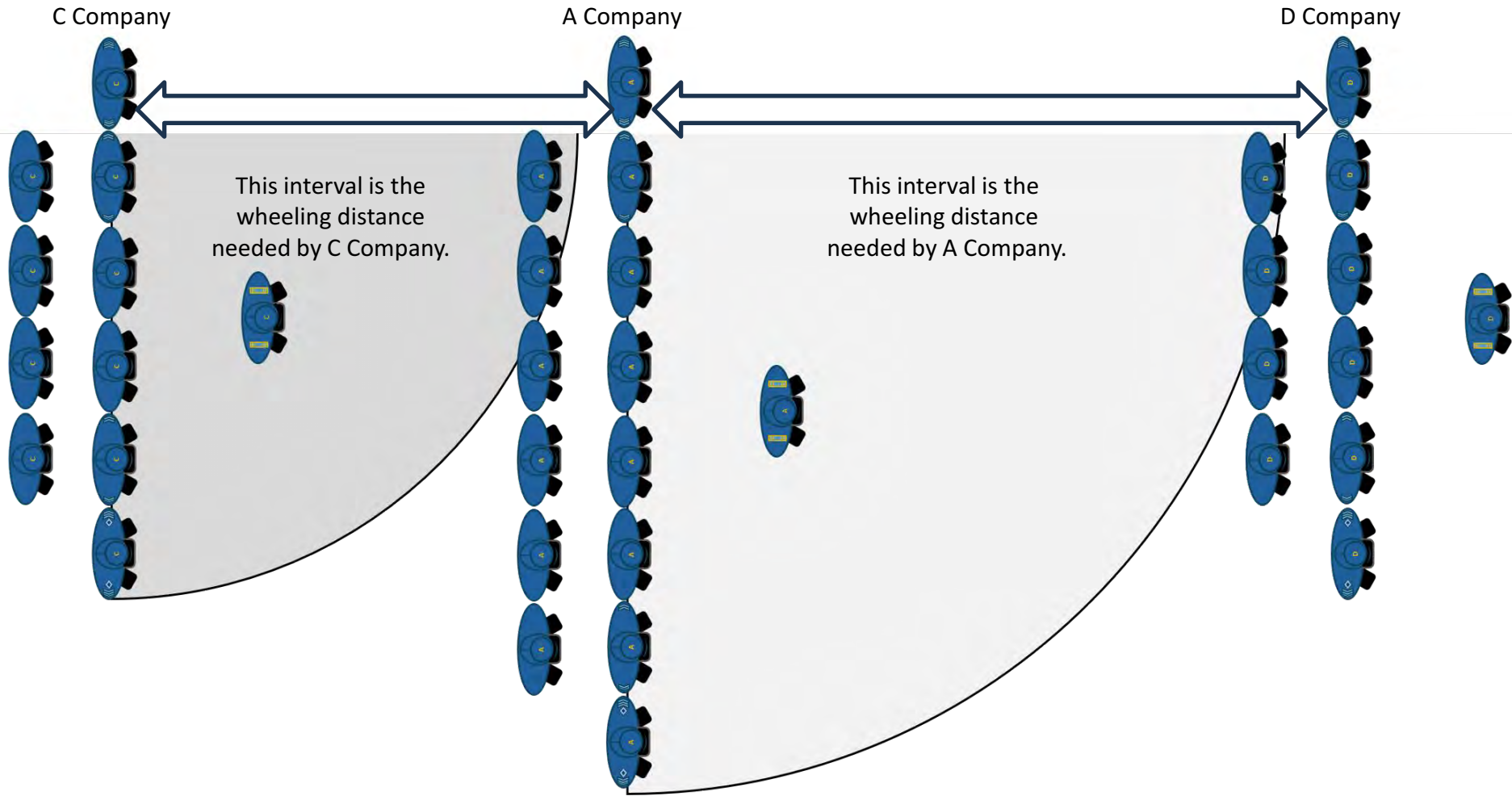
There is no room on the Battalion line for these two men if the Company was to wheel into line with this wheeling distance.

The greater the difference in size between Companies, the more men that cannot come onto line!

This excess wheeling distance will result in a gap between the Companies. That gap will ripple along all the following Companies when this Company corrects its dress.

The greater the difference in size between Companies, the greater that gap will be!

Wheeling distances recovered on the march.



Significance of Wheeling Distances

When Companies are not the same size, this difference in wheeling distances prevents a Battalion from passing from the Order in Battle to the Order in Column and then immediately trying to pass back to the Order in Battle.

This issue is typically encountered during Battalion drill when practicing breaking from the Order in Battle to the Order in Column.

- break to the right or the left into column (S.B. 78 and following)
- break to the rear, by the right or left, into column (S.B. 108 and following)

When the instructor says “Let’s try that again!” They immediately attempt to reform the Battalion line without first having recovered proper wheeling distances between the Companies.

The symptoms are:

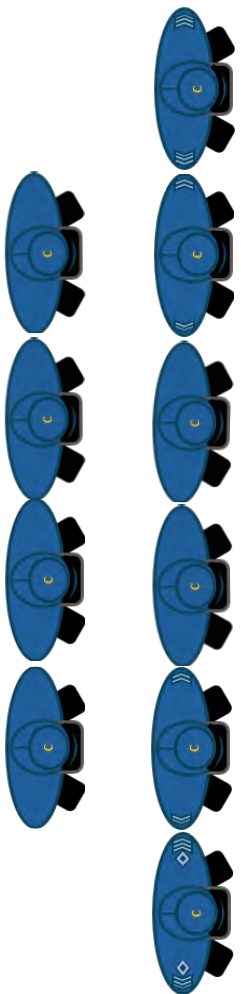
- Large gaps between Companies at the conclusion of the wheel.
- Insufficient room for large Companies to wheel into line.

Company - To the left (or right) into line of battle.

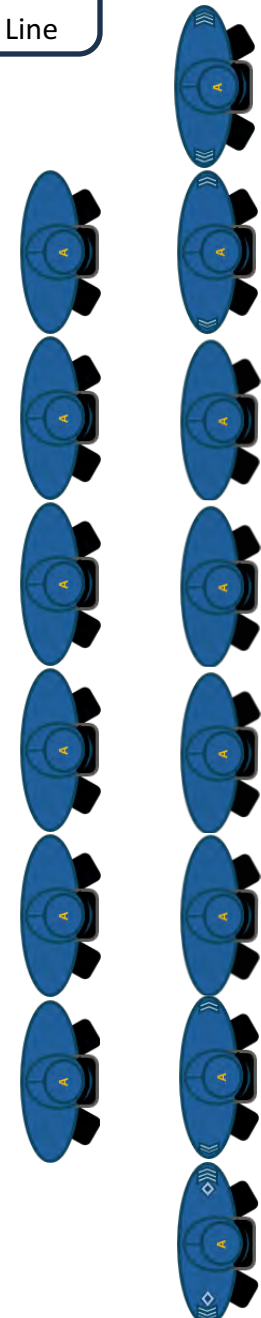
- **S.B. 464.** A column, right in front, being at a halt, when the colonel shall wish to form it to the left into line, he will assure the positions of the guides by the means previously indicated, and then command:
1. *Left into line, wheel.* 2. *MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).*
- **S.B. 465.** At the first command, the right guide of the leading company will hasten to place himself on the direction of the left guides of the column, face to them, and place himself so as to be opposite to one of the three right files of his company, when they shall be in line: he will be assured in this position by the lieutenant-colonel.
- **S.B. 466.** At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the captains, the left front-rank man of each company will face to the left, and rest his breast lightly against the right arm of his guide; the companies will wheel to the left on the principle of wheeling from a halt, conforming themselves to what is prescribed in the *S. C., No. 244*: each captain will turn to his company, to observe the execution of the movement, and, when the right of the company shall arrive at three paces from the line of battle, he will command:
1. *Such company.* 2. *HALT.*
- **S.B. 467.** The company being halted, the captain will place himself on the line by the side of the left front-rank man of the company next on the right, align himself correctly, and command:
3. *Right—DRESS.*
- **S.B. 468.** At this command, the company will dress up between the captain and the front-rank man on its left, the captain directing the alignment on that man; the front-rank man on the right of the right company, who finds himself opposite to its right guide, will lightly rest his breast against the left arm of this guide.
- **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.*
- **S.B. 471.** When companies form line of battle, file closers will always place themselves exactly two paces from the rear rank, which will sufficiently assure their alignment.
- **S.B. 472.** The battalion being correctly aligned, the colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and majors, as well as the adjutant and sergeant-major, will return to their respective places in line of battle. *This rule is general for all the formations into line of battle*; nevertheless, the battalion being in the school of elementary instruction, the colonel will go to any point he may deem necessary.
- **S.B. 473.** A column, with the left in front, will form itself to the right into line of battle, according to the same principles; the left guide of the left company will place himself, at the first command, on the direction of the right guides, in a manner corresponding to what is prescribed, No. 465, for the right guide of the right company.
- **S.B. 474.** At the command *guides posts*, the captains will take their places in line of battle, as well as the guides. *This rule is general for all formations into line of battle, in which the companies are aligned by the left.*



Battalion.
HALT
Reform the Battalion into Line



C Company



A Company





Before issuing the preparatory command, the Colonel needs to make sure the line of battle is determined as he desired.

C Company



"caution" the men, e.g.,:
C Company,
prepare to wheel on a fixed pivot to the left.

Last-Corporal,
You will face to the left.

2nd Sergeant,
You will stand fast.

A Company



"caution" the men, e.g.,:
A Company,
prepare to wheel on a fixed pivot to the left.

Last-Corporal,
You will face to the left.

2nd Sergeant,
You will stand fast.



Before issuing the preparatory command, the Colonel needs to make sure the line of battle is determined as he desired.

C Company



Manner of determining the line of battle.

S.B. 463. The line of battle may be marked or determined in three different manners: *1st*, by placing two markers eighty or a hundred paces apart, on the direction it is wished to give to the line; *2nd*, by placing a marker at the point at which it may be intended to rest a flank, and then choosing a second point toward the opposite flank, and there posting a second marker distant from the first a little less than the front of the subdivision; *3rd*, by choosing at first the points of direction for the flanks, and then determining, by intermediate point, the straight line between those selected points, both of which may sometimes be beyond reach.

S.B. 464. A column, right in front, being at a halt, when the colonel shall wish to form it to the left into line, he will assure the positions of the guides by the means previously indicated, and then command:

1. Left into line, wheel. 2. MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).

A Company



Before issuing the command of execution, the Colonel needs to pause:

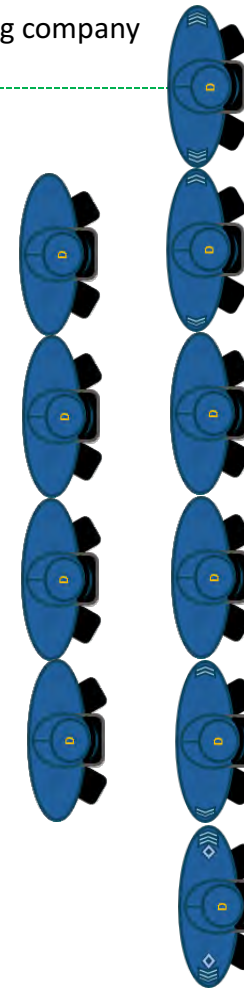
- 1) To allow the Guide of the leading company to traverse the field and take his position on the new line.
- 2) To allow the lieutenant-colonel time to ensure that the leading company guide is aligned properly.

S.B. 465. At the first command, the right guide of the leading company will hasten to place himself on the direction of the left guides of the column, face to them, and place himself so as to be opposite to one of the three right files of his company, when they shall be in line: he will be assured in this position by the lieutenant-colonel.



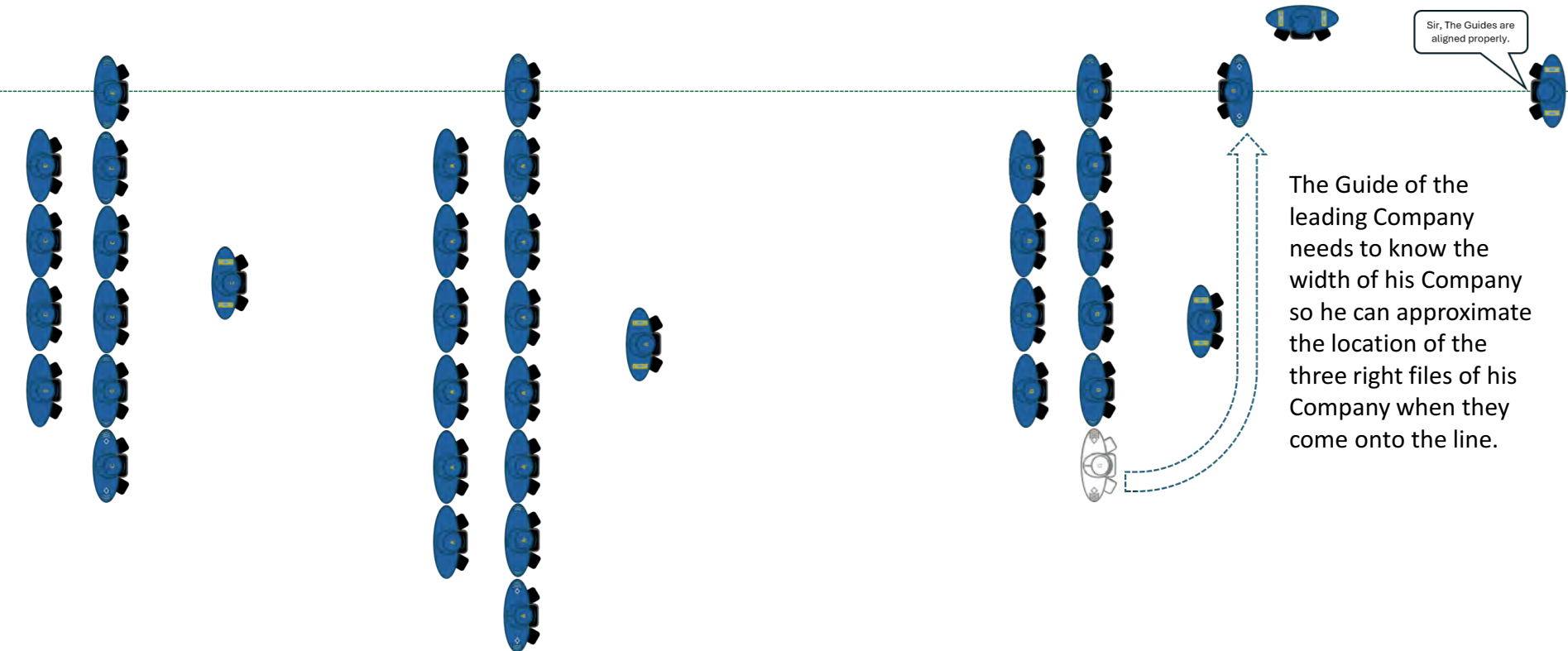
In this illustration, Company D is the leading or “right company” of the Column of Companies, therefore, its 1st Sgt takes position as the rightmost guide for setting the Battalion line.

Only the flanking guide of the leading company leaves his position in the ranks.



Left into line, wheel.

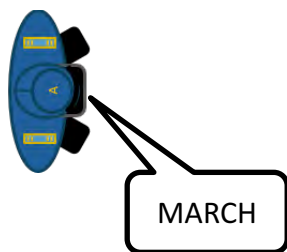
S.B. 465. At the first command, the right guide of the leading company will hasten to place himself on the direction of the left guides of the column, face to them, and place himself so as to be opposite to one of the three right files of his company, when they shall be in line: he will be assured in this position by the lieutenant-colonel.



NOTE: The use of the left guide and maneuver of the left front-rank man facing to the left defines the alignment for the front rank on the new battalion line.

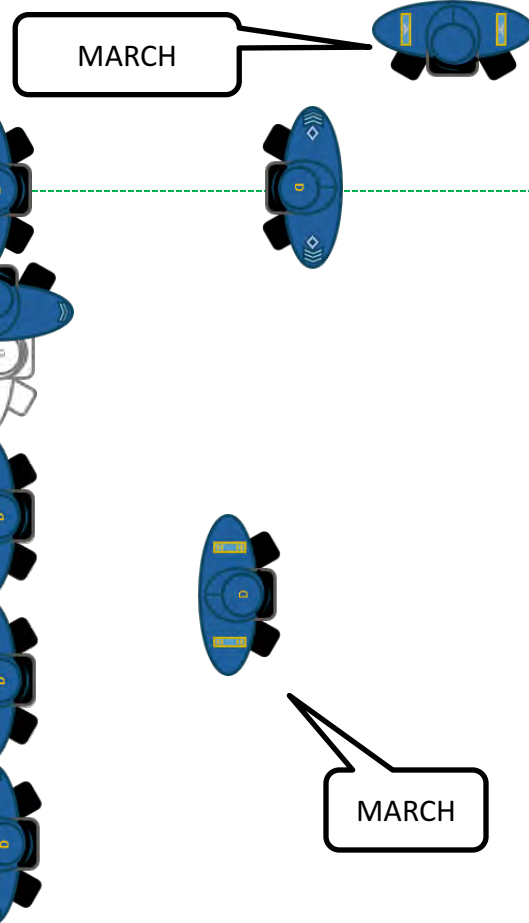
S.B. 466. At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the captains, the left front-rank man of each company will face to the left, and rest his breast lightly against the right arm of his guide; the companies will wheel to the left on the principle of wheeling from a halt, conforming themselves to what is prescribed in the *S. C., No. 244*: each captain will turn to his company, to observe the execution of the movement, and, when the right of the company shall arrive at three paces from the line of battle, he will command:

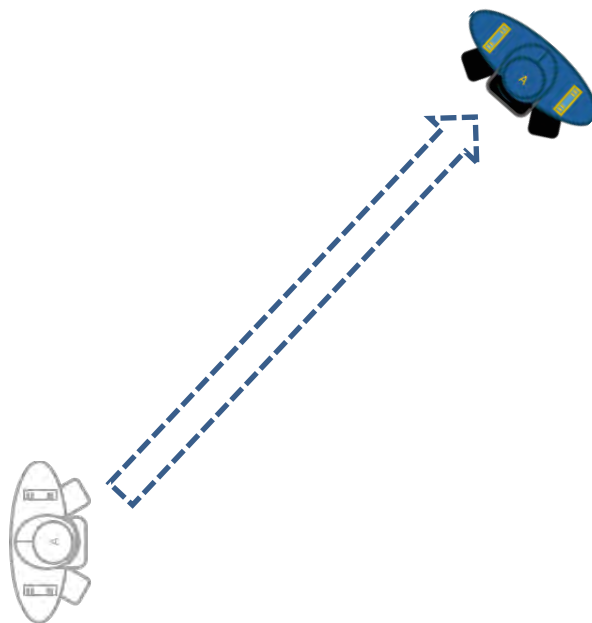
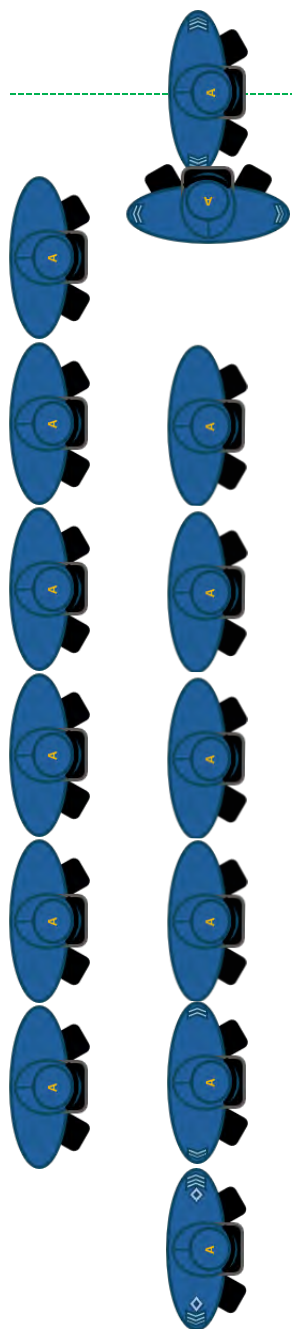
1. *Such company.* 2. *HALT.*



S.C. 244. At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the chiefs of platoon, the front-rank man on the left of each platoon will face to the left, and place his breast lightly against the arm of the guide by his side, who stands fast; the platoons will wheel to the left on the principle of wheels from a halt, and in conformity to what is prescribed in No. 199. Each chief will turn to his platoon to observe its movement, and when the marching flank has approached near the line of battle, he will command:

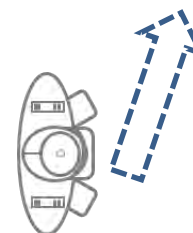
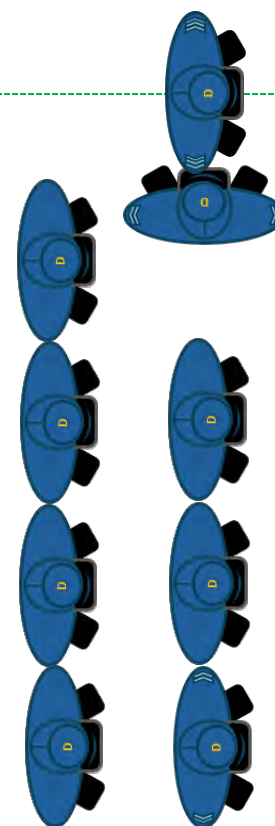
1. *Platoon.* 2. *HALT.*

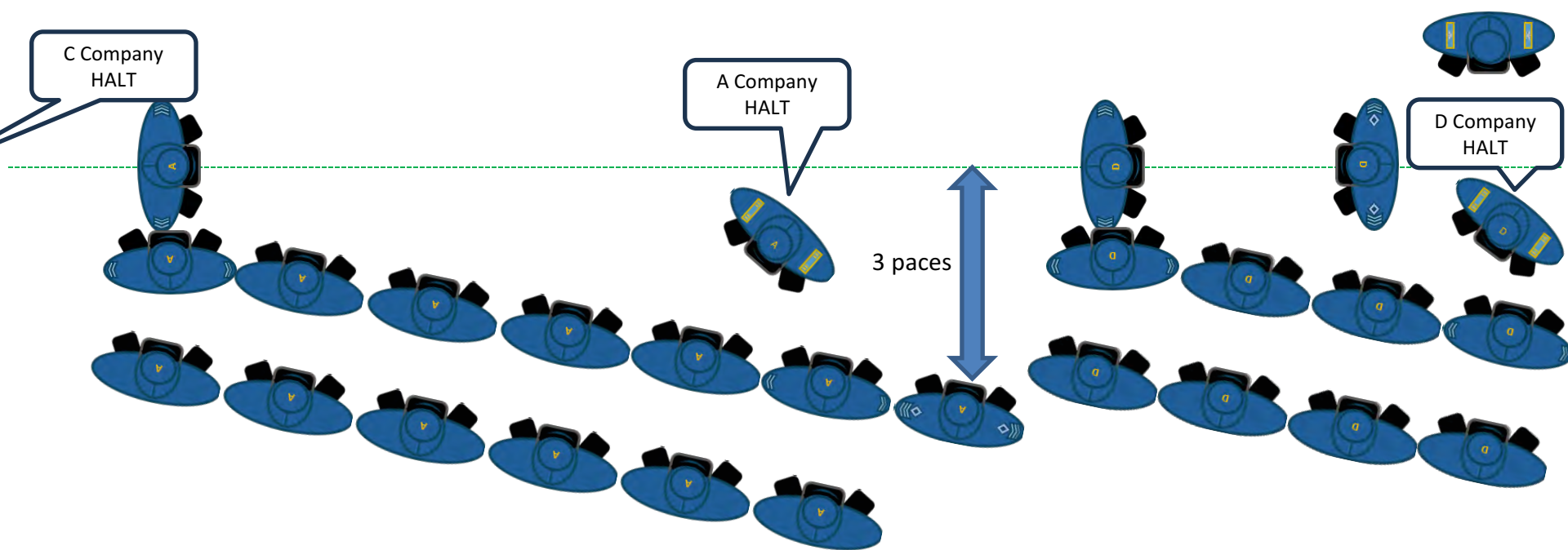




S.B. 466. At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the captains, the left front-rank man of each company will face to the left, and rest his breast lightly against the right arm of his guide; the companies will wheel to the left on the principle of wheeling from a halt, conforming themselves to what is prescribed in the S. C., No. 244: each captain will turn to his company, to observe the execution of the movement, and, when the right of the company shall arrive at three paces from the line of battle, he will command:

1. *Such company.* 2. *HALT.*





S.B. 466. At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the captains, the left front-rank man of each company will face to the left, and rest his breast lightly against the right arm of his guide; the companies will wheel to the left on the principle of wheeling from a halt, conforming themselves to what is prescribed in the *S. C., No. 244*: each captain will turn to his company, to observe the execution of the movement, and, when the right of the company shall arrive at three paces from the line of battle, he will command:

1. *Such company.* 2. *HALT.*

For the Captain of A Company, the Last-Corporal of D Company is the “left front-rank man of the company next on the right”

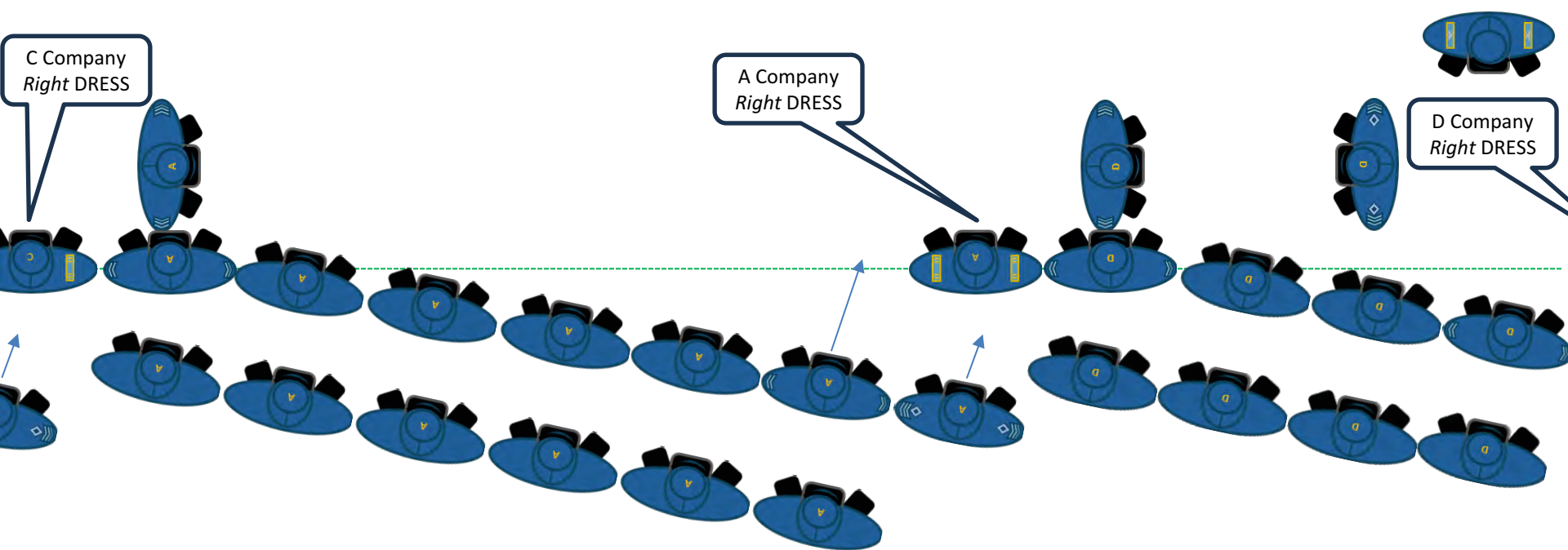
A Company is the “company next on the right” of C Company

D Company is the “company next on the right” of A Company

S.B. 467. The company being halted, the captain will place himself on the line by the side of the left front-rank man of the company next on the right, align himself correctly, and command:

3. *Right*—DRESS.

The Captain ensures that he positions himself on the line drawn between the “man of the company next on the right” and the “left front-rank man” of his own Company that had faced to the left at the beginning of this maneuver.

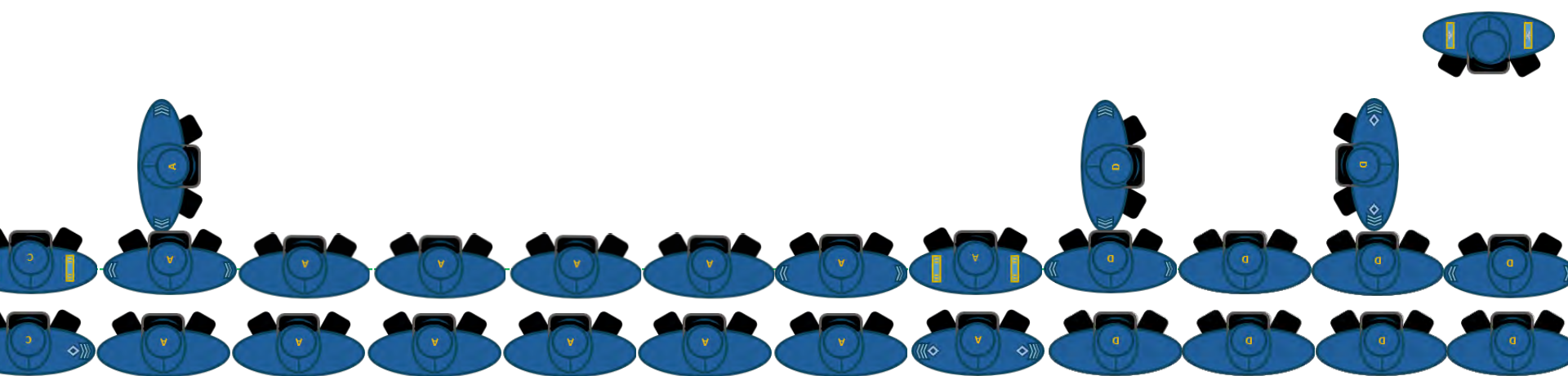


NOTE: For all but the Leading Company, the 1st Sgt marched in the front rank and guided the Company through the wheel. Upon the command “*Right DRESS*”, the 1st Sgt Covers the Captain, and it is the 1st Corporal that dresses on the elbow of the Captain.

S.B. 467. The company being halted, the captain will place himself on the line by the side of the left front-rank man of the company next on the right, align himself correctly, and command:

3. *Right*—DRESS.

NOTE: Captains, make sure you turn your head to project your voice to your Company, who in this maneuver, is behind you to your left. They need to hear your commands.

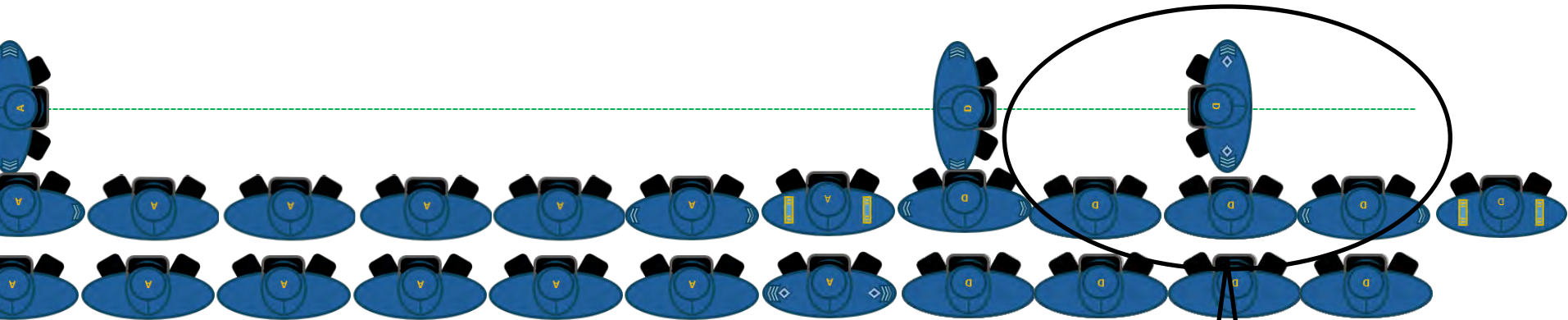


3. *Right—DRESS.*

S.B. 468. At this command, the company will dress up between the captain and the front-rank man on its left, the captain directing the alignment on that man; the front-rank man on the right of the right company, who finds himself opposite to its right guide, will lightly rest his breast against the left arm of this guide.

The “front-rank man on its left” is a reference to the front-rank man of each Company that had faced to the left at the beginning of the maneuver.
E.g., the Last-Corporal.

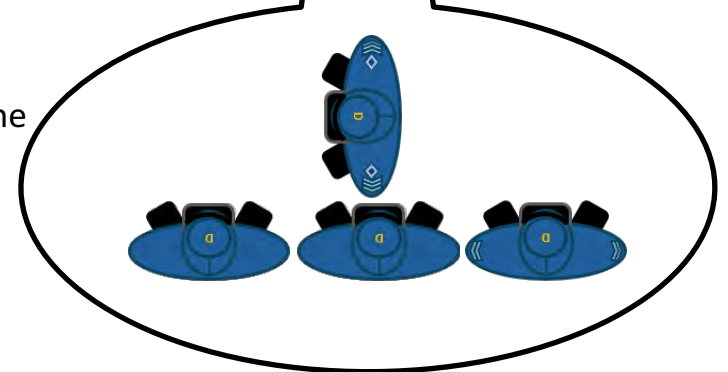
FOCUS: Alignment of the Guides in the 1st Company in the Column, i.e., the “right company”.

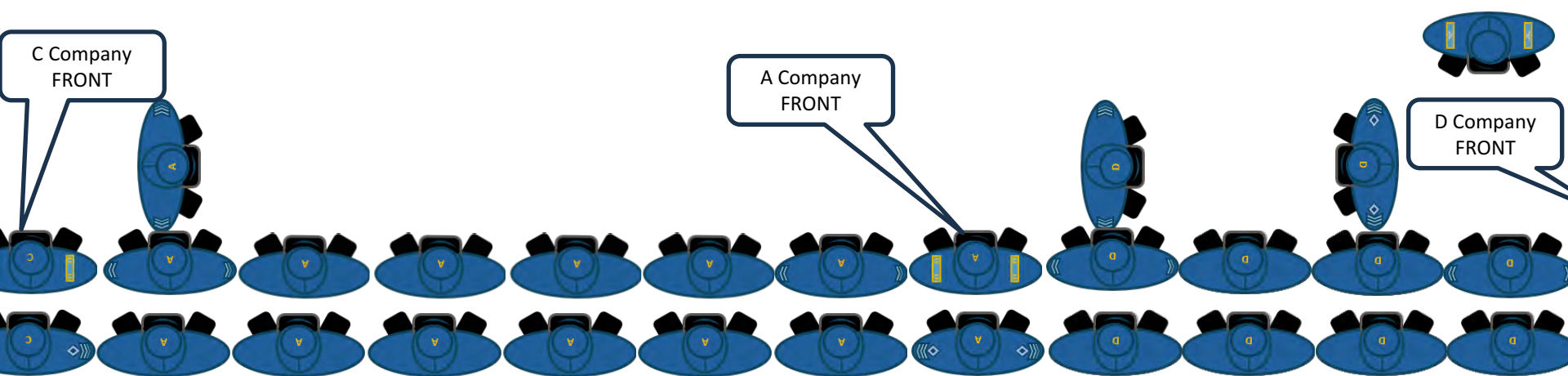


S.B. 468. At this command, the company will dress up between the captain and the front-rank man on its left, the captain directing the alignment on that man; the front-rank man on the right of the right company, who finds himself opposite to its right guide, will lightly rest his breast against the left arm of this guide.

In these illustrations, Company D is the leading or “right company” of the Column of Companies. Therefore, its 1st Sgt is the rightmost guide for setting the Battalion line; and its 2nd Sgt anchors the wheel into line.

For all other Companies, the 1st SGT covers their Company Captain and the 2nd Sgts anchor the Company’s wheel into line.



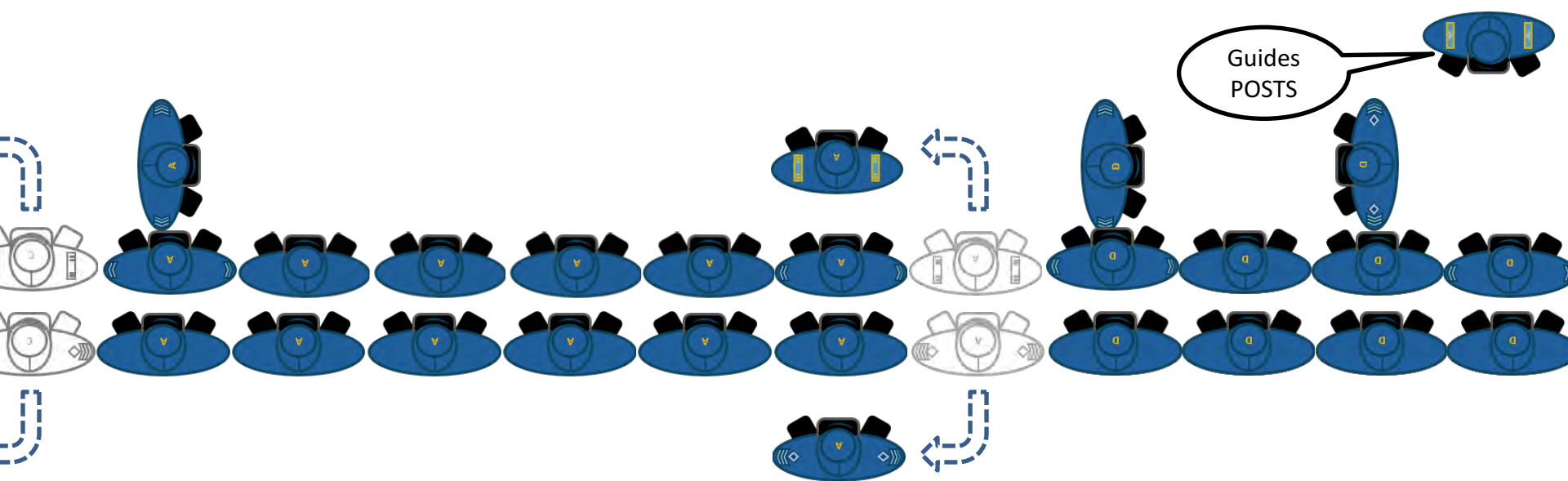


S.B. 469. Each captain, having aligned his company,
will command FRONT, and the colonel will add:
Guides—POSTS.

Recall from School of the Soldier that when dressing the rank, the soldiers direct their eyes to the new alignment and keep them directed that way until commanded to return their gaze directly forward by the command, FRONT.

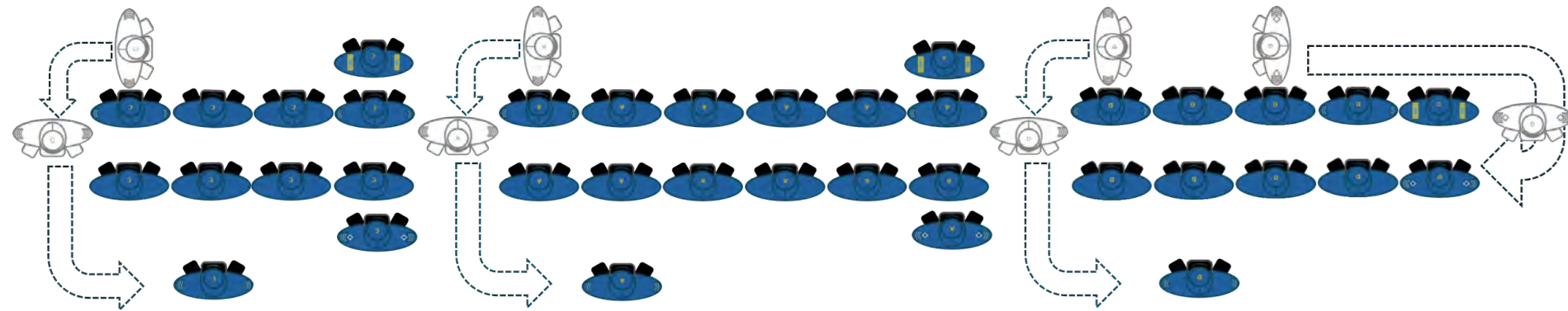
S.S. 322. The instructor seeing the rank well aligned, will command:
FRONT.

S.S. 323. At this, the recruits will turn eyes to the front, and remain firm.

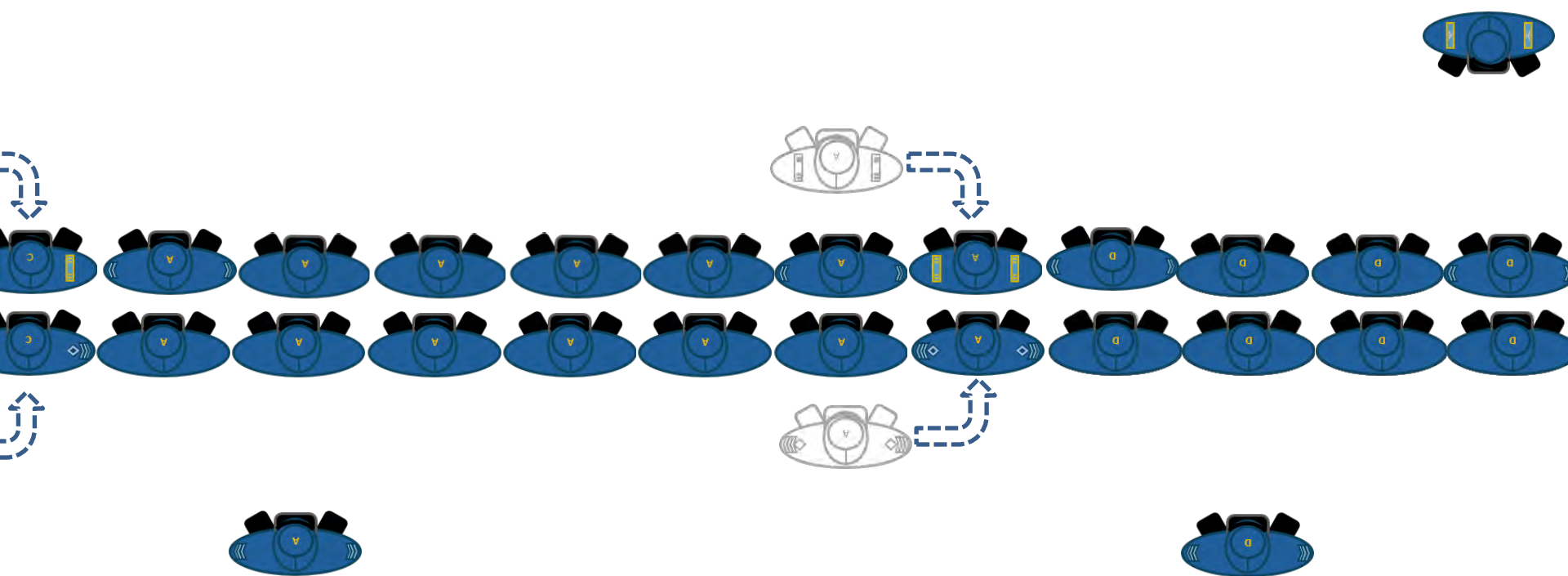


S.B. 469. Each captain, having aligned his company, will command FRONT, and the colonel will add:
Guides—POSTS.

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.



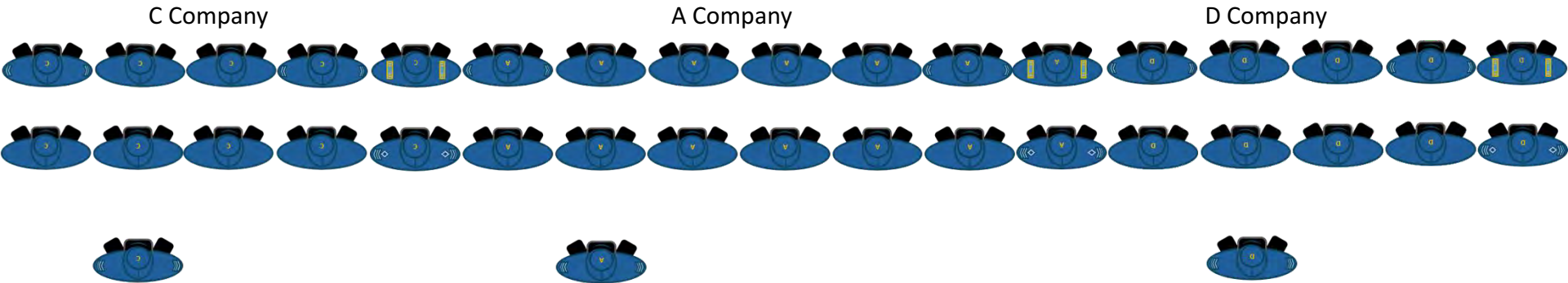
S.B. 470. At this command, the guides will return to their places in line of battle, each passing through the nearest captain's interval; to permit him to pass, the captain will momentarily step before the first file of his company, and the covering sergeant behind the same file. *This rule is general for all the formations into line of battle.*



S.B. 471. When companies form line of battle, **file closers will always place themselves exactly two paces from the rear rank**, which will sufficiently assure their alignment.

S.B. 474. At the command *guides posts*, the captains will take their places in line of battle, as well as the guides. *This rule is general for all formations into line of battle, in which the companies are aligned by the left.*

Battalion passed from the Order in Column to the Order in Battle Halted



SCHOOL OF THE BATTALION.

ARTICLE II.

**Mode of passing from column at full distance
into line of battle.**

**From Halt to Marching
&**

From Marching to Marching

To the left (or right) into line of battle.

Column at full distance, right in front, to the left into line of battle.

1. *Left into line, wheel.* 2. *MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).*

- **S.B. 476.** A column in march will be formed into line, without halting, by the same commands and means. At the command *march*, the guides will halt in their places, and the lieutenant colonel will promptly rectify their positions.
- **S.B. O-477.** Omitted by direction of Secretary of the War Department.
- **S.B. 478.** If, in forming the column into line, the colonel should wish to move forward, without halting, he will command:

1. *By companies left wheel.* 2. *MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).*

- **S.B. 479.** At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the captain, **each company will wheel to the left on a fixed pivot, as prescribed in the S. C., No. 266**; the left guides will step back into the rank of file closers before the wheel is completed, and when the right of the companies shall arrive near the line, the colonel will command:

3. *Forward.* 4. *MARCH.* 5. *Guide centre.*

- **S.B. 480.** At the fourth command, given at the instant the wheel is completed, the companies will march directly to the front. At the fifth command, the color and the general guides will move rapidly six paces to the front. The colonel will assure the direction of the color; the captains of companies and the men will, at once, conform themselves to the principles of the march in line of battle, to be hereinafter indicated, No. 648 and following.

Although the Column of Companies is marching when the command “Left into line, wheel. 2. MARCH (or double quick—MARCH)” is issued, the Companies do **NOT** execute a wheel in motion. **They execute a wheel on a fixed pivot!**

S.B. 479. At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the captain, **each company will wheel to the left on a fixed pivot, as prescribed in the S. C., No. 266**; the left guides will step back into the rank of file closers before the wheel is completed, and when the right of the companies shall arrive near the line, the colonel will command: ...

S.C. 266. At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the chiefs of platoon, **the left guides will halt: the man next to the left guide in each platoon will mark time**; the platoons will wheel to the left, conforming to the principles of the wheel on a fixed pivot. When the right of the platoons shall arrive near the line of battle, the instructor will command:

3. *Forward*. 4. MARCH. 5. *Guides right (or left)*.

S.C. 267. At the fourth command, given at the instant the wheel is completed, all the men of the company will move off together with the step of twenty-eight inches; the captain, the chief of the second platoon, the covering sergeant, and the left guide will take their positions as in line of battle.

From Halt to Marching & From Marching to Marching

Both maneuvers are executed the same way. The only difference is the starting condition.

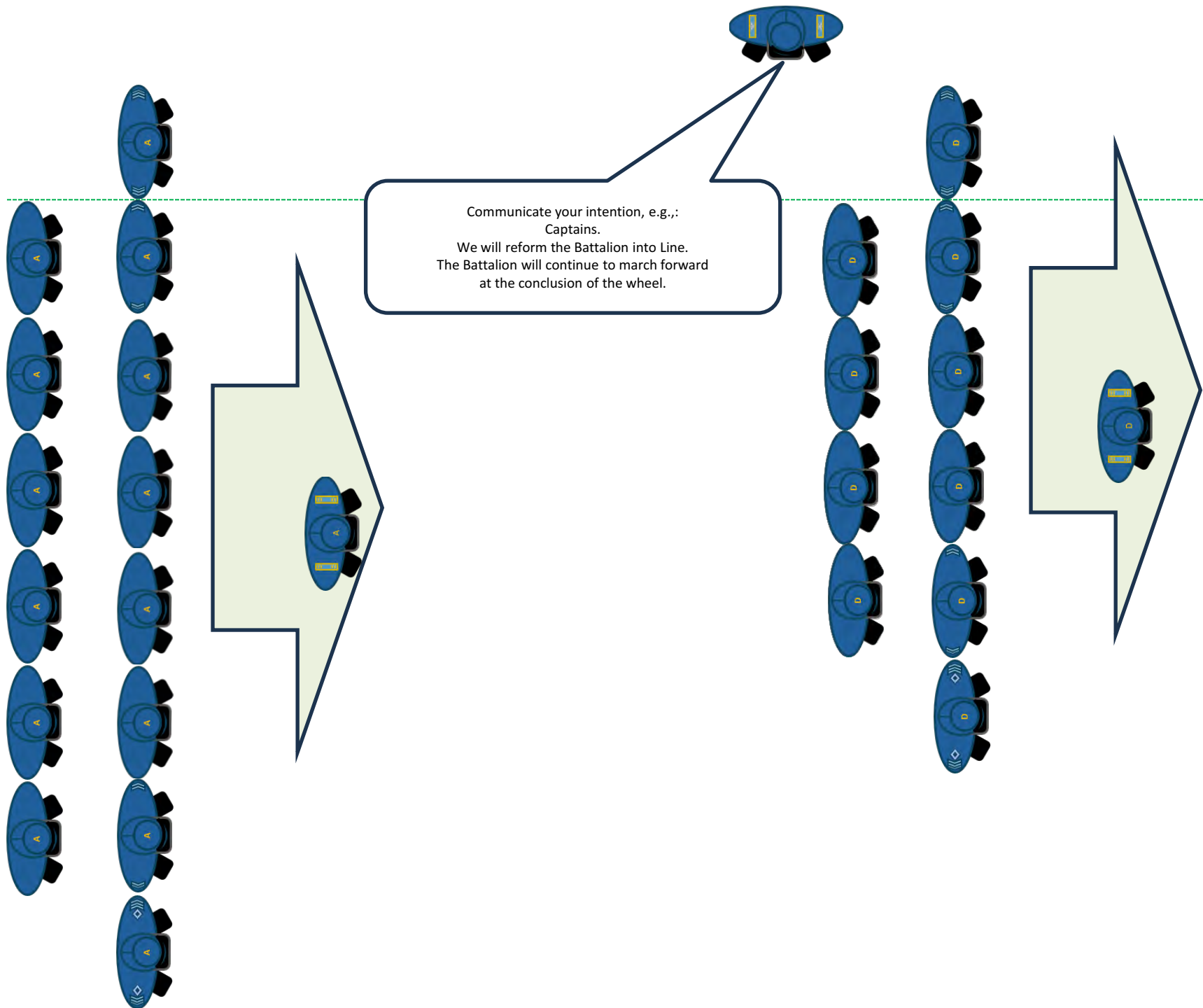
The Colonel needs to inform the Company Commanders that the Battalion will move forward at the conclusion of the wheels. Doing so enables the Company Commanders to caution their Company regarding the correct execution.

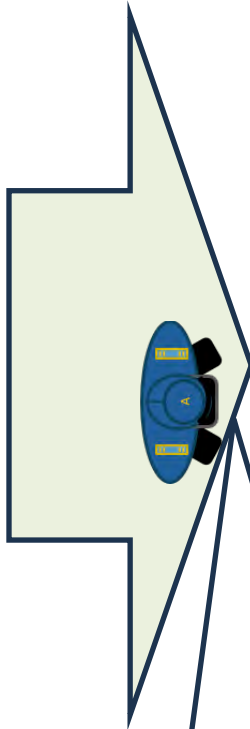
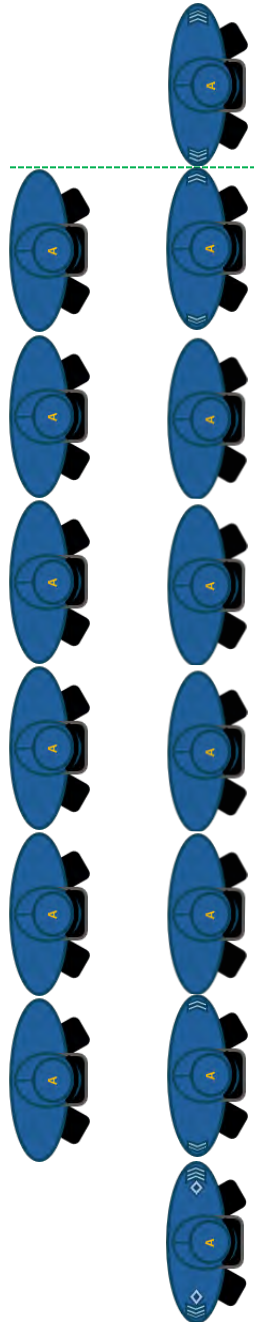
Just like the HALT to HALT execution:

- 1) The wheels are executed on a fixed pivot.
- 2) The Guide on the pivot side of the wheel stands fast.

The significant differences from the HALT to HALT execution are the following:

- 1) The man next to the guide on the pivot side of the wheel marks time instead of facing to that guide.
- 2) The guides on the pivot side of the wheel return to their positions before the wheel is completed.

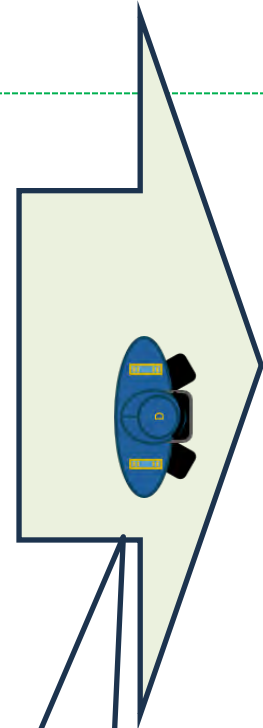
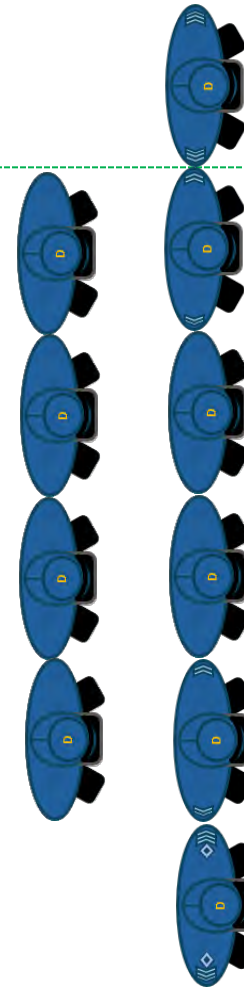




"caution" the men, e.g.,:
A Company,
We will be marching forward at the conclusion of the wheel.
Prepare to wheel on a fixed pivot to the left.

Last-Corporal,
You will NOT face to the right. You will mark time.

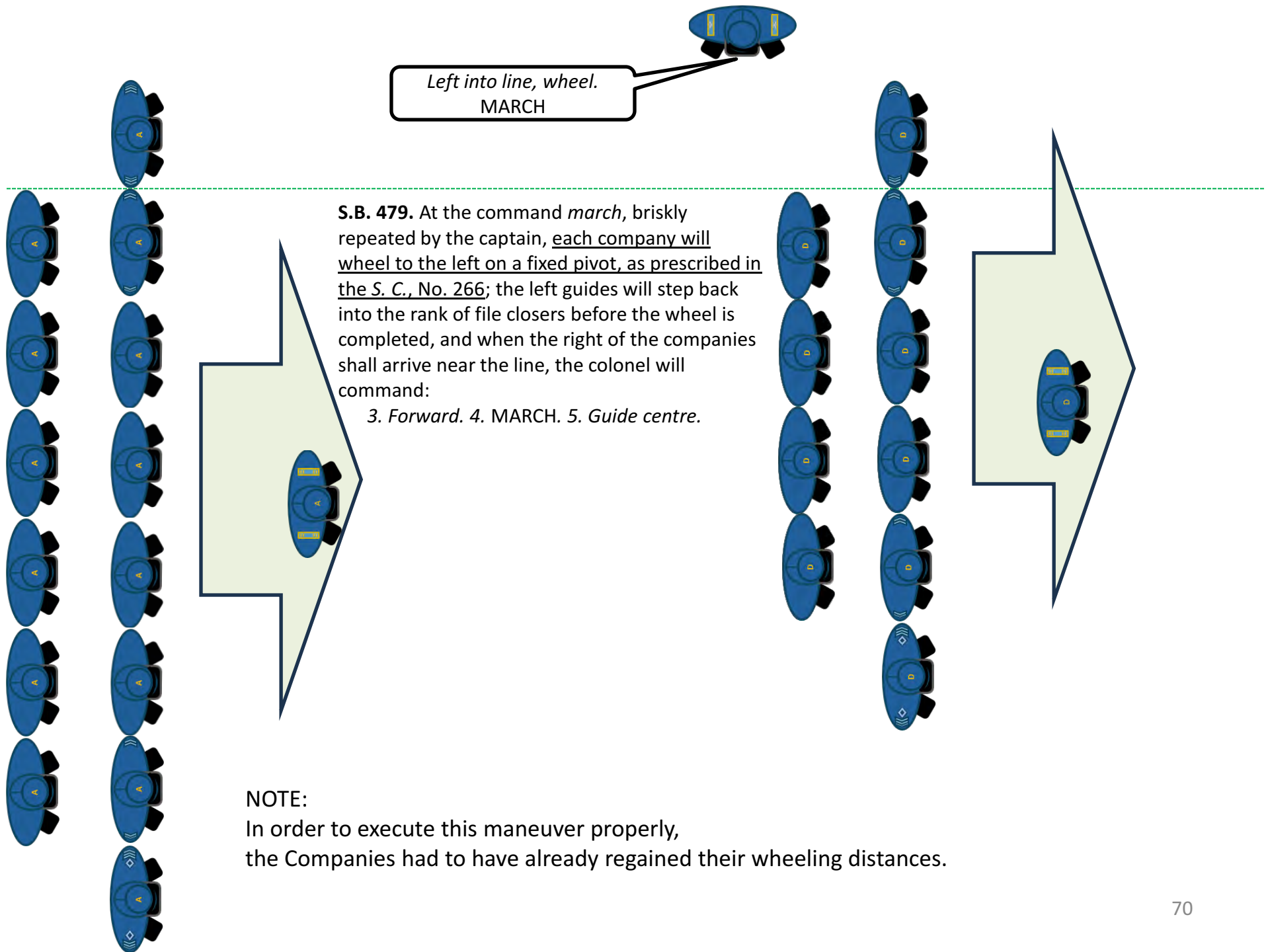
2nd Sergeant,
You will stand fast.



"caution" the men, e.g.,:
D Company,
We will be marching forward at the conclusion of the wheel.
Prepare to wheel on a fixed pivot to the left.

Last-Corporal,
You will NOT face to the right. You will mark time.

2nd Sergeant,
You will stand fast.

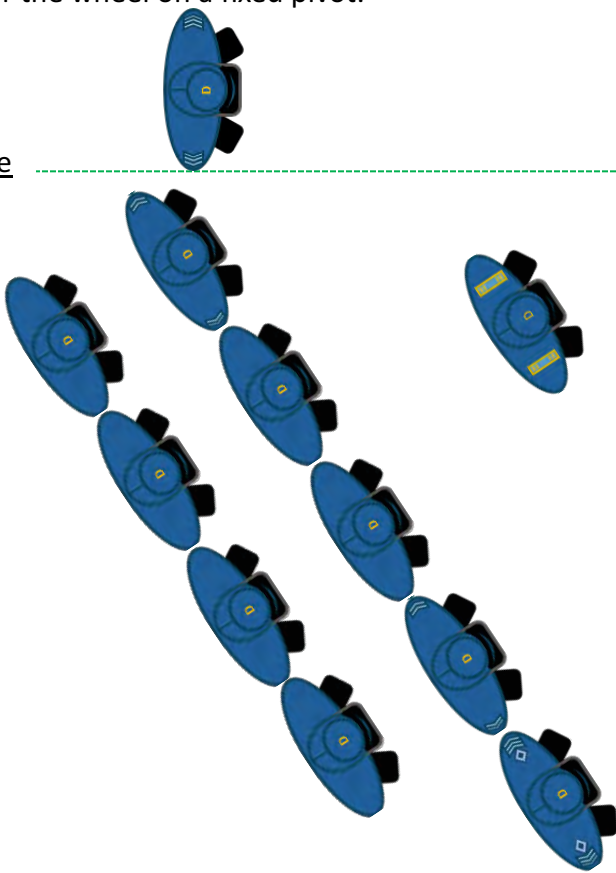
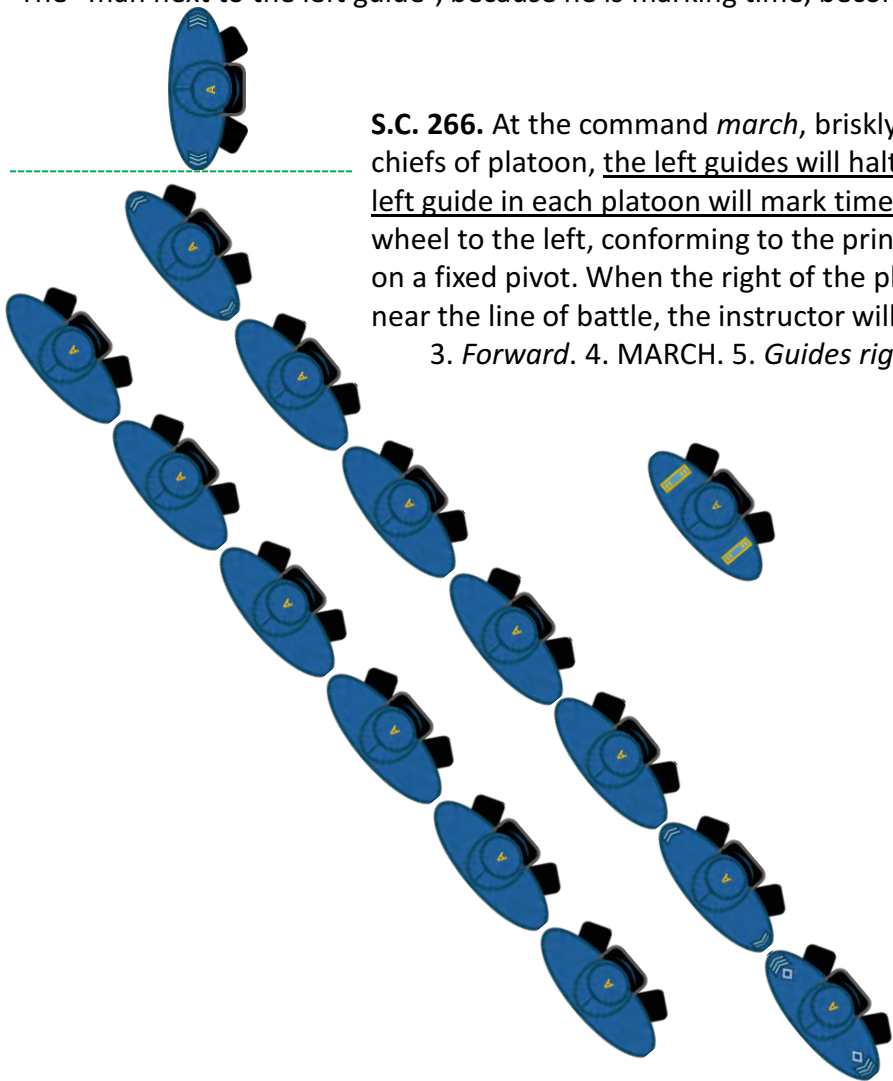


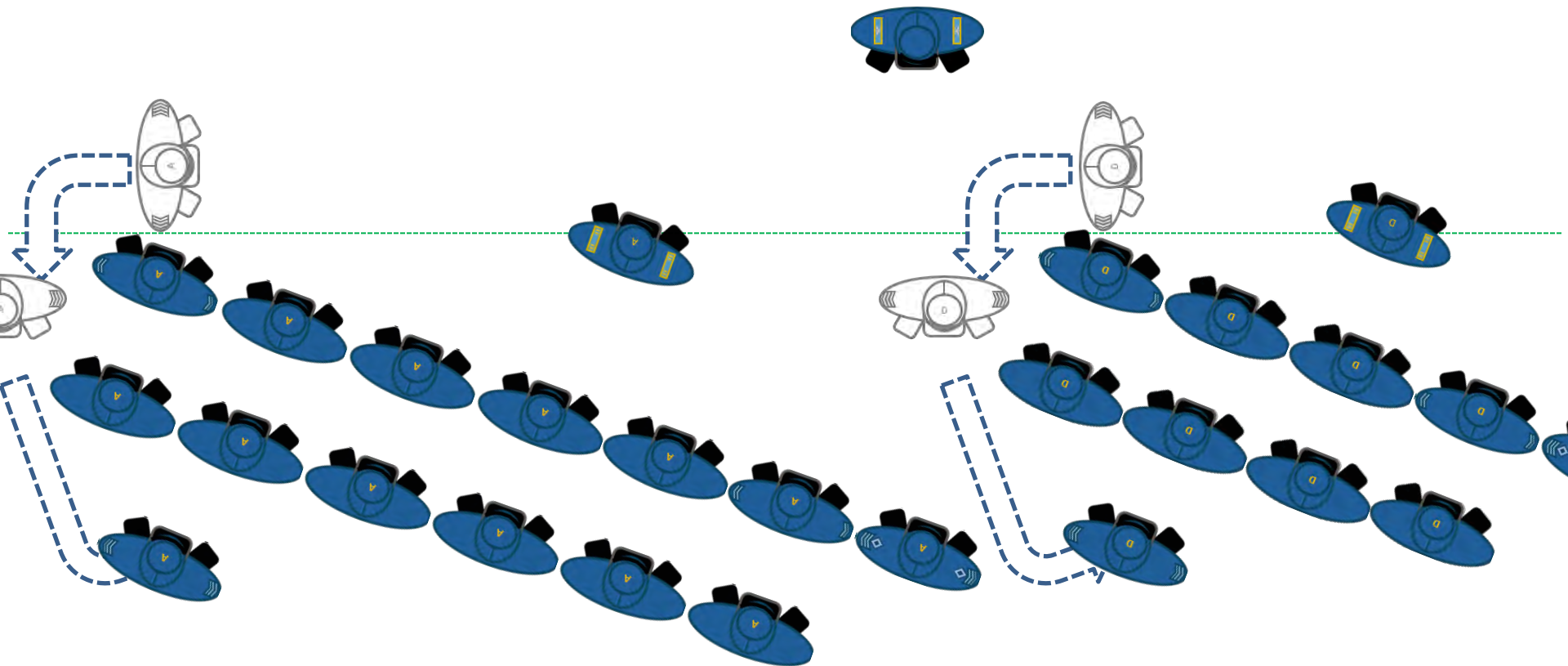
In this maneuver, the Left Guides halt; thus they mark the new Battalion line.



The “man next to the left guide”, because he is marking time, becomes the pivot-man for the wheel on a fixed pivot.

S.C. 266. At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the chiefs of platoon, the left guides will halt: the man next to the left guide in each platoon will mark time: the platoons will wheel to the left, conforming to the principles of the wheel on a fixed pivot. When the right of the platoons shall arrive near the line of battle, the instructor will command:
3. *Forward*. 4. MARCH. 5. *Guides right (or left)*.



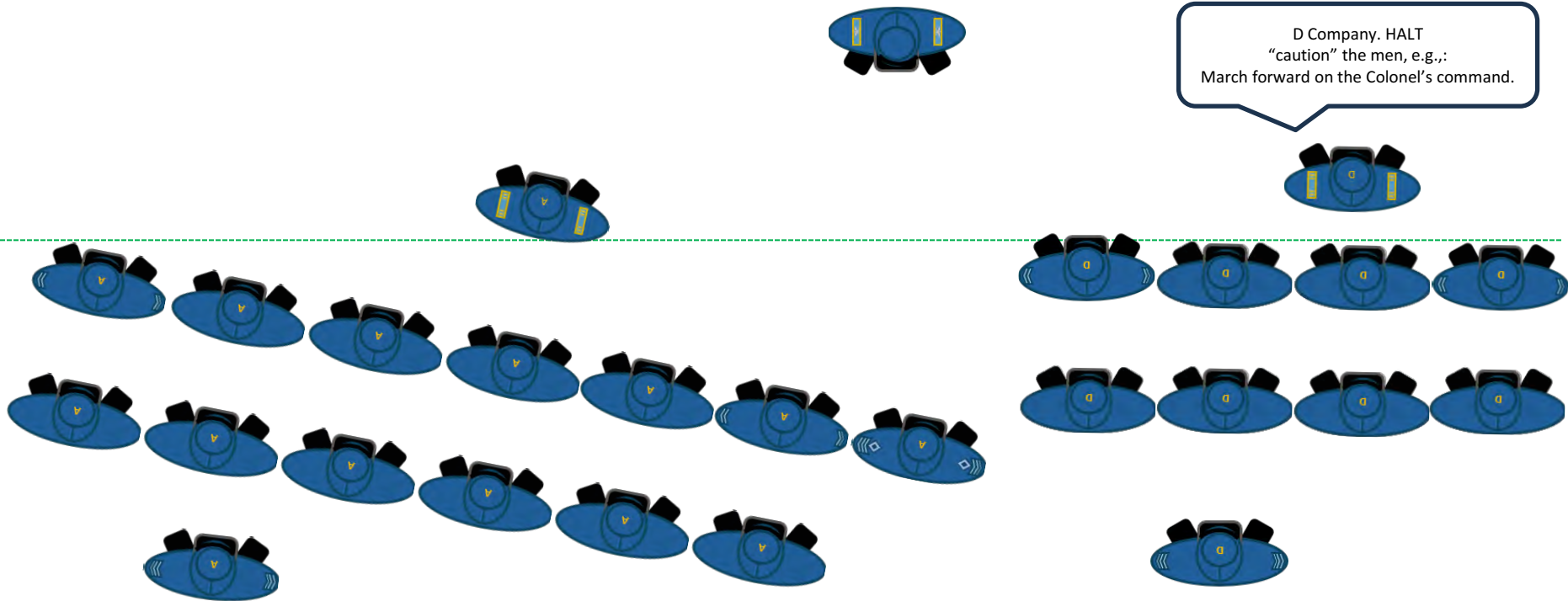


S.B. 479. At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the captain, each company will wheel to the left on a fixed pivot, as prescribed in the S. C., No. 266; the left guides will step back into the rank of file closers before the wheel is completed, and when the right of the companies shall arrive near the line, the colonel will command:

3. *Forward*. 4. *MARCH*. 5. *Guide centre*.

NOTE:

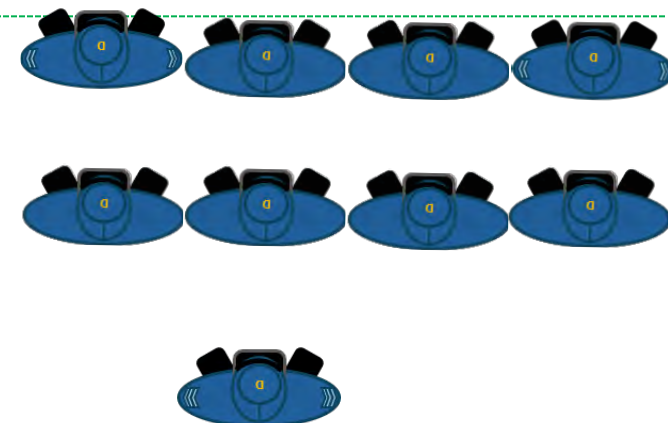
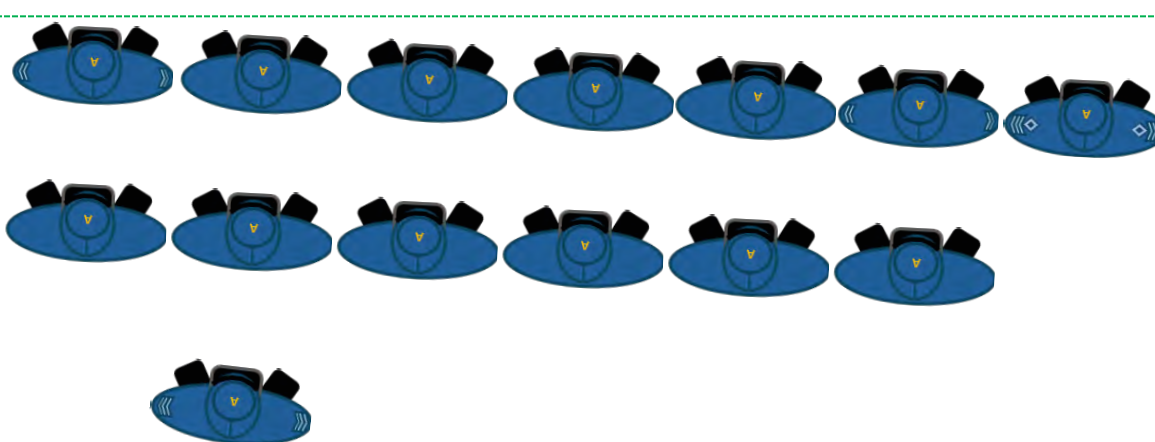
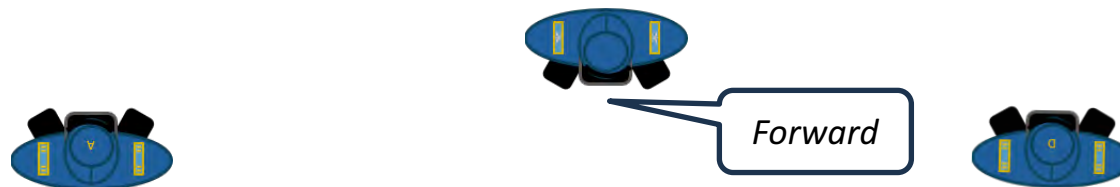
If the Guides wait too long to return to their posts, they won't be able to pass between their Company and the following Company.



When Companies are not the same size,
smaller Companies may “arrive near the line” well before the larger Companies do.

In that situation, the Captains of the smaller Companies should probably halt their Company until the largest Company has arrived “near the line”. And caution them to step off when the Colonel commands:

Forward, MARCH



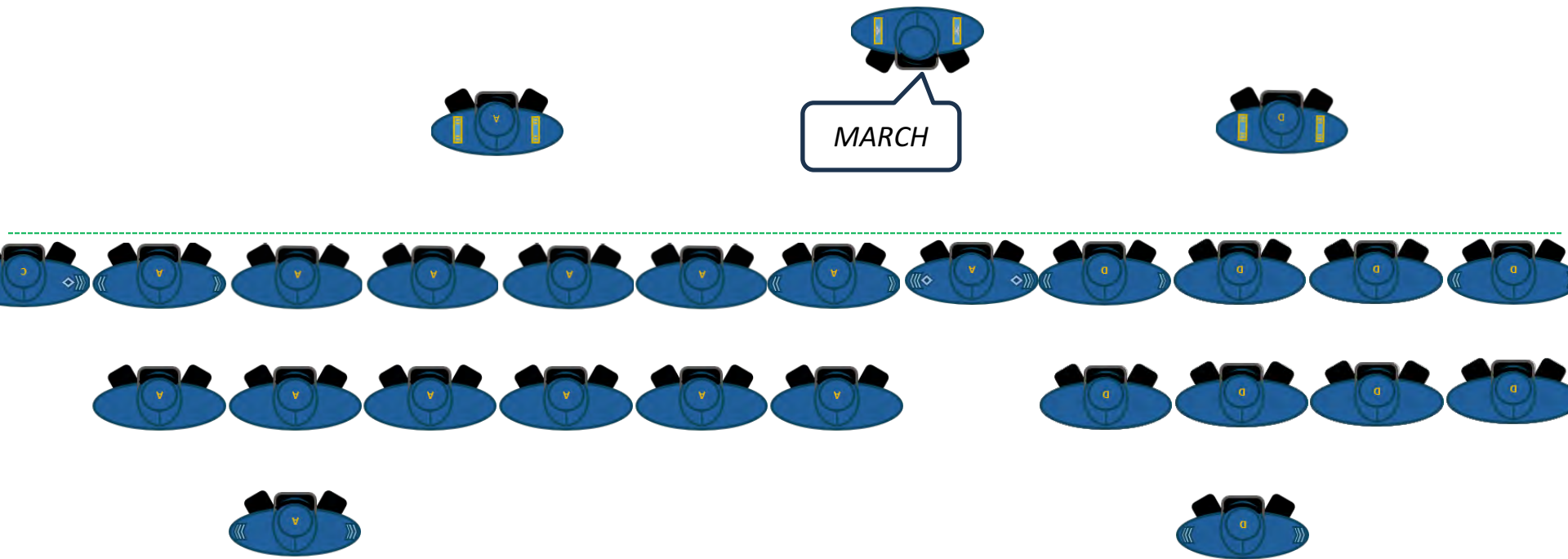
S.B. 479. At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the captain, each company will wheel to the left on a fixed pivot, as prescribed in the S. C., No. 266; the left guides will step back into the rank of file closers before the wheel is completed, and when the right of the companies shall arrive near the line, the colonel will command:

3. *Forward*. 4. *MARCH*. 5. *Guide centre*.

When Companies are not the same size, smaller Companies may “arrive near the line” well before the larger Companies do.

In that situation, the Captains of the smaller Companies should probably halt their Company until the largest Company has arrived “near the line”. And caution them to step off when the Colonel commands

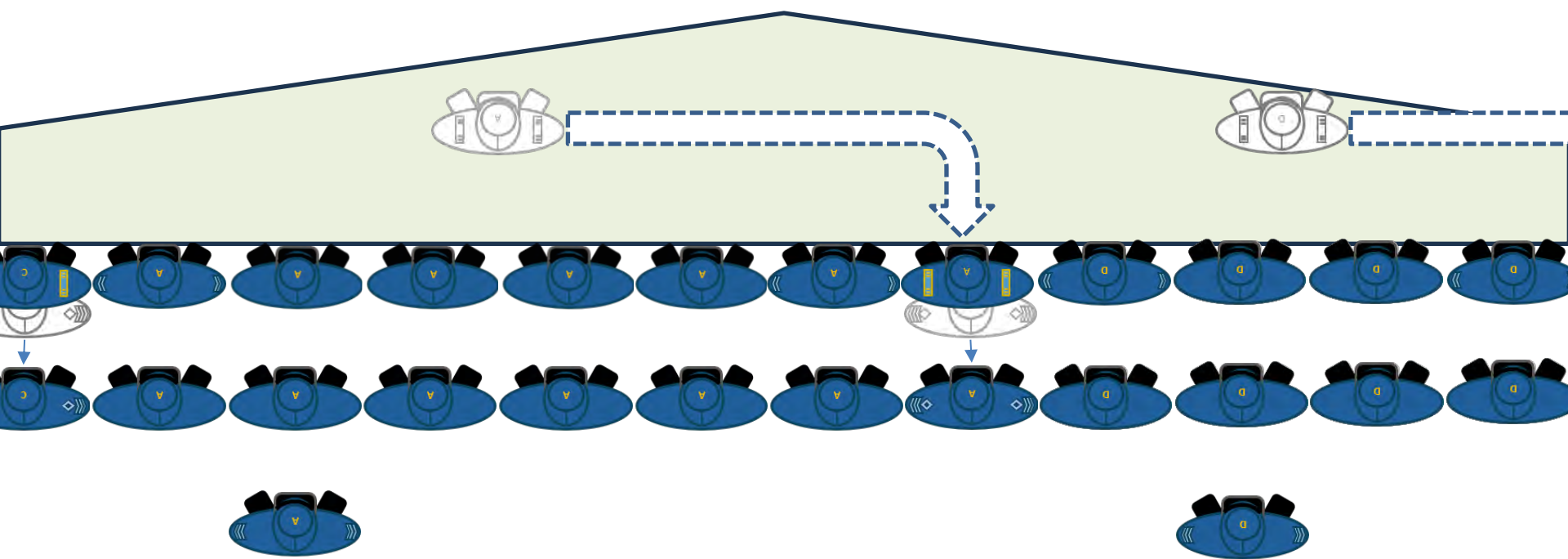
Forward, *MARCH*



S.B. 479. At the command *march*, briskly repeated by the captain, each company will wheel to the left on a fixed pivot, as prescribed in the S. C., No. 266; the left guides will step back into the rank of file closers before the wheel is completed, and when the right of the companies shall arrive near the line, the colonel will command:

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S.B. 480. At the fourth command, given at the instant the wheel is completed, the companies will march directly to the front. At the fifth command, the color and the general guides will move rapidly six paces to the front. The colonel will assure the direction of the color; the captains of companies and the men will, at once, conform themselves to the principles of the march in line of battle, to be hereinafter indicated, No. 648 and following.



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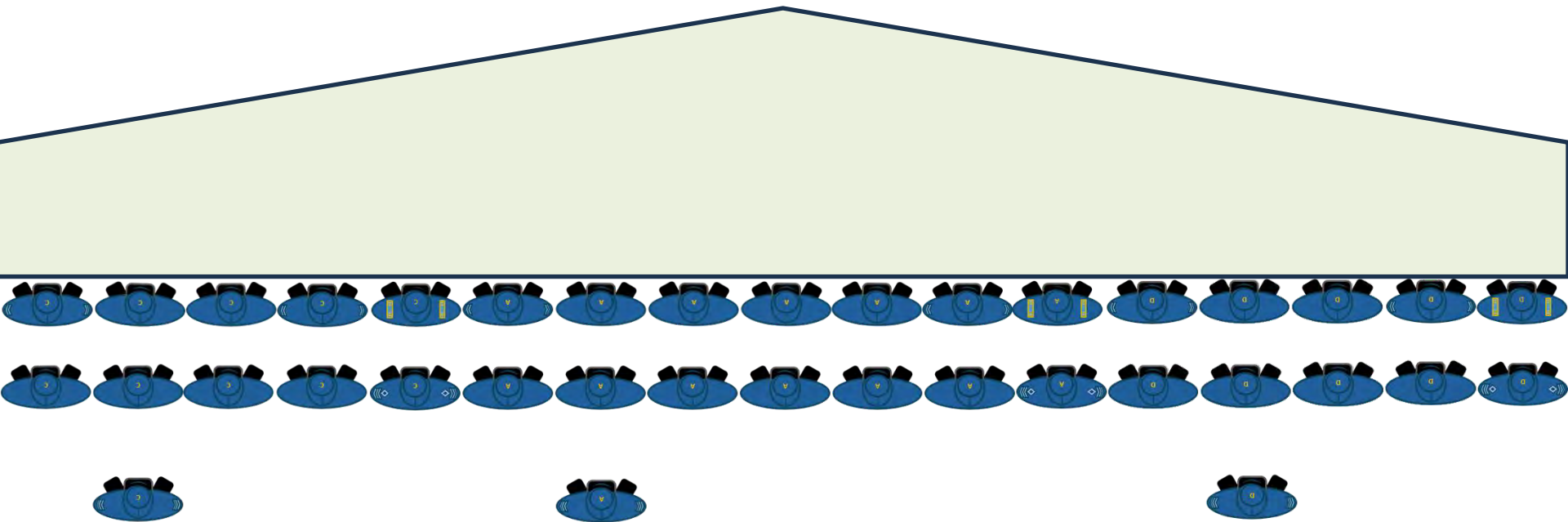
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POSTS OF COMPANY OFFICERS SERGEANTS AND CORPORALS.

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 manoeuvres he will be denominated covering sergeant, or right guide of the company.

Battalion passed from the Order in Column to the Order in Battle Marching



END OF LESSON