



A SEMINAR ON  
CASEY'S SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

---

SCHOOLS OF THE SOLDIER AND COMPANY

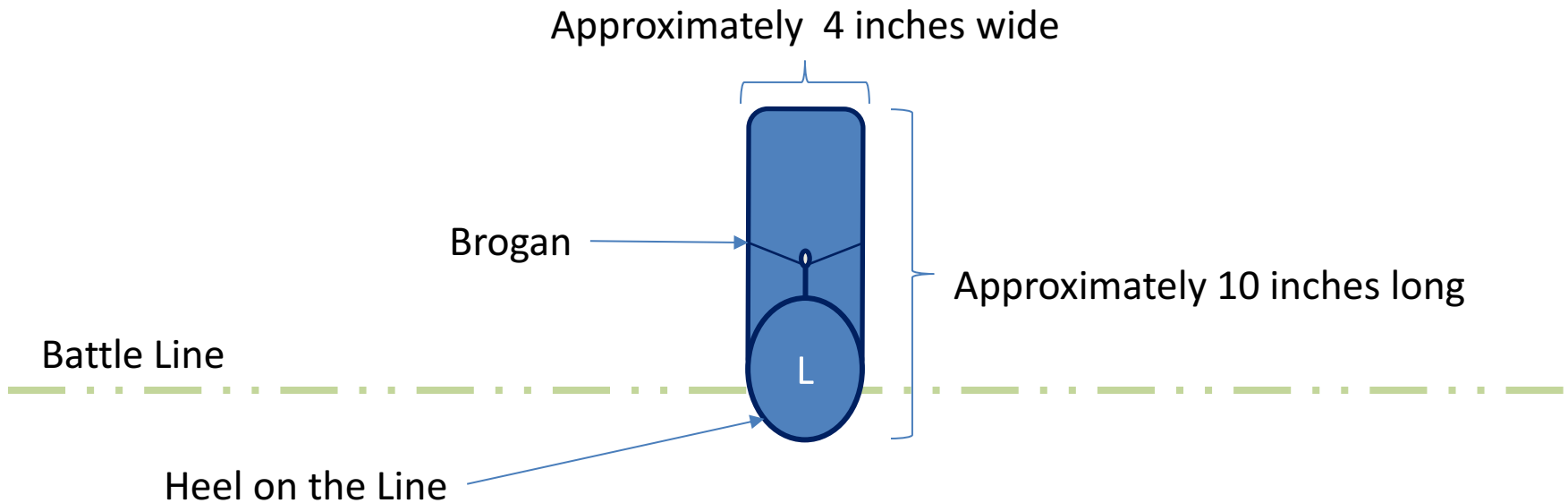
---

# **FACINGS – PROPER FOOTWORK**

STEVE GIOVANNINI

25 MAY 2026

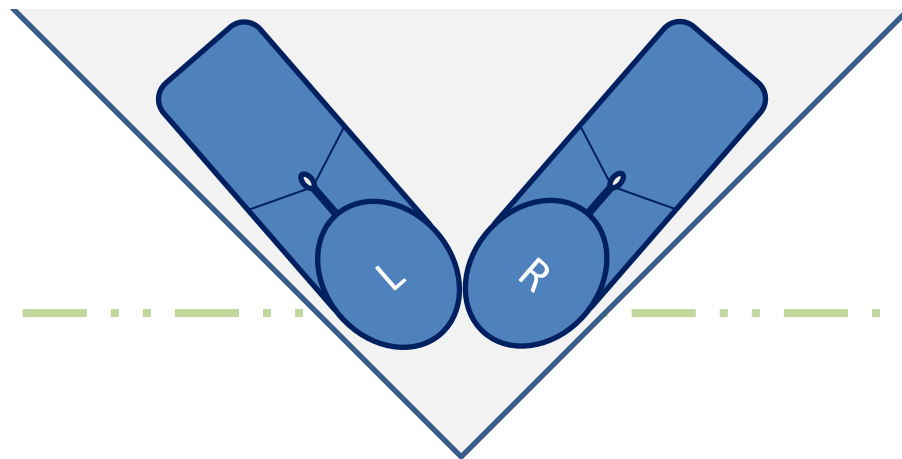
# Cartoon Brogans = Notional Diagrams Scale



Scale of diagrams are based on a Brogan size 9.5  
This is not an exact scale representation.  
Diagrams are a rough approximation.  
They are intended to illustrate the concepts.

# Recall the 'Position of a Soldier'

## Such a minor detail ... but so important!



S.S. 85: Heels on the same line, as near each other as the conformation of the man will permit;

The feet turned out equally, and forming with each other something less than a right angle;

The knees straight without stiffness;

The body erect on the hips, inclining a little forward;

The shoulders square and falling equally;

The arms hanging naturally;

The elbows near the body;

The palm of the hand turned a little to the front, the little finger behind the seam of the pantaloons;

The head erect and square to the front, without constraint;

The chin near the stock, without covering it;

The eyes fixed straight to the front, and striking the ground about the distance of fifteen paces.

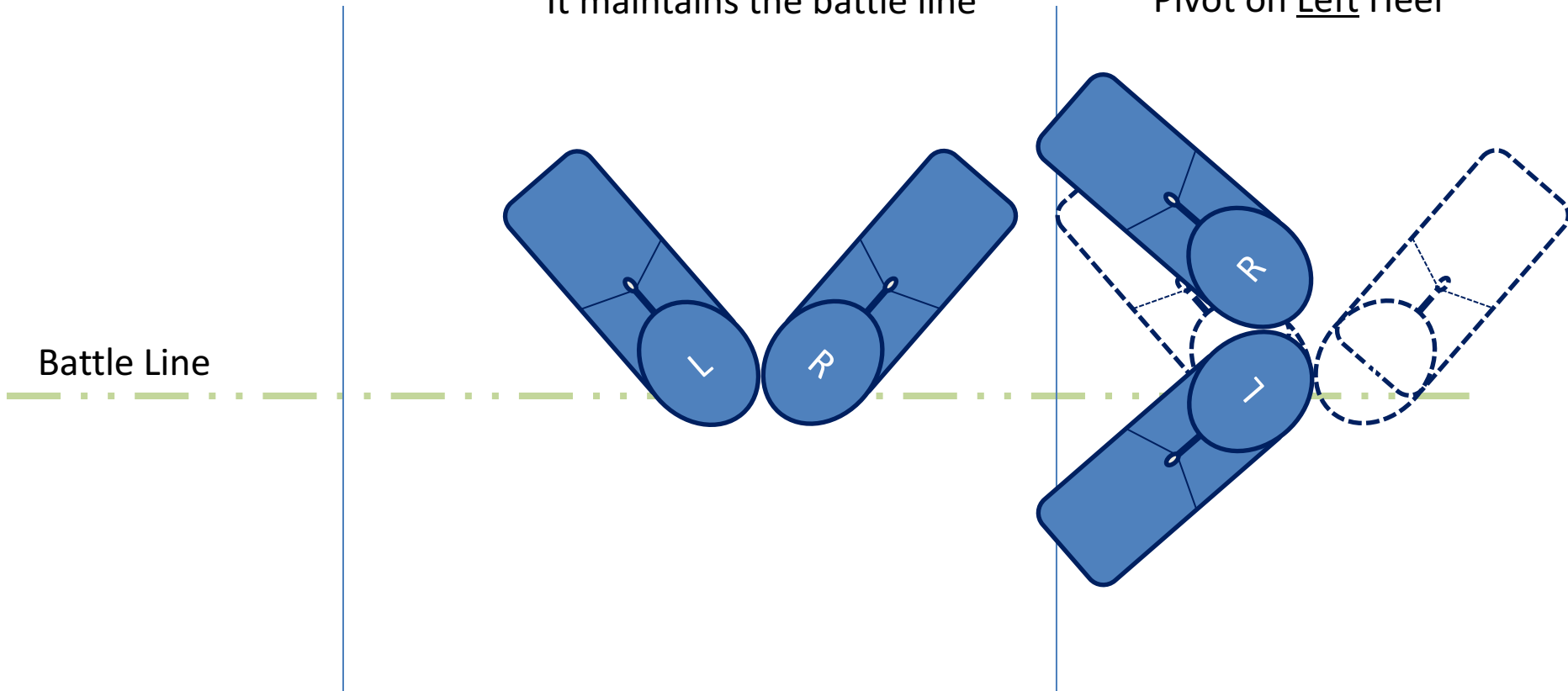
# Facings

- **ALL** Facings (left, right, about) are performed by pivoting on the **left** heel.
  - 1. *Squad*. 2. Right (or left)-FACE.
    - 96. At the second command, raise the right foot slightly, turn on the left heel, raising the toes a little, and then replace the right heel by the side of the left, and on the same line.
    - 1. *Squad*. 2. ABOUT-FACE.
      - 98. (First time.) At the word about, the recruit will turn on the left heel, bring the left toe to the front, carry the right foot to the rear, the hollow opposite to, and full three inches from, the left heel, the feet square to each other.
      - 99. (Second time.) At the word face, the recruit will turn on both heels, raise the toes a little, extend the hams, face to the rear, bringing, at the same time, the right heel by the side of the left.
- This is extremely important for maintaining alignment: both when preparing to march by the flank and reestablishing the battle front.

# Facings – Left Face (pivot on left heel)

It maintains the battle line

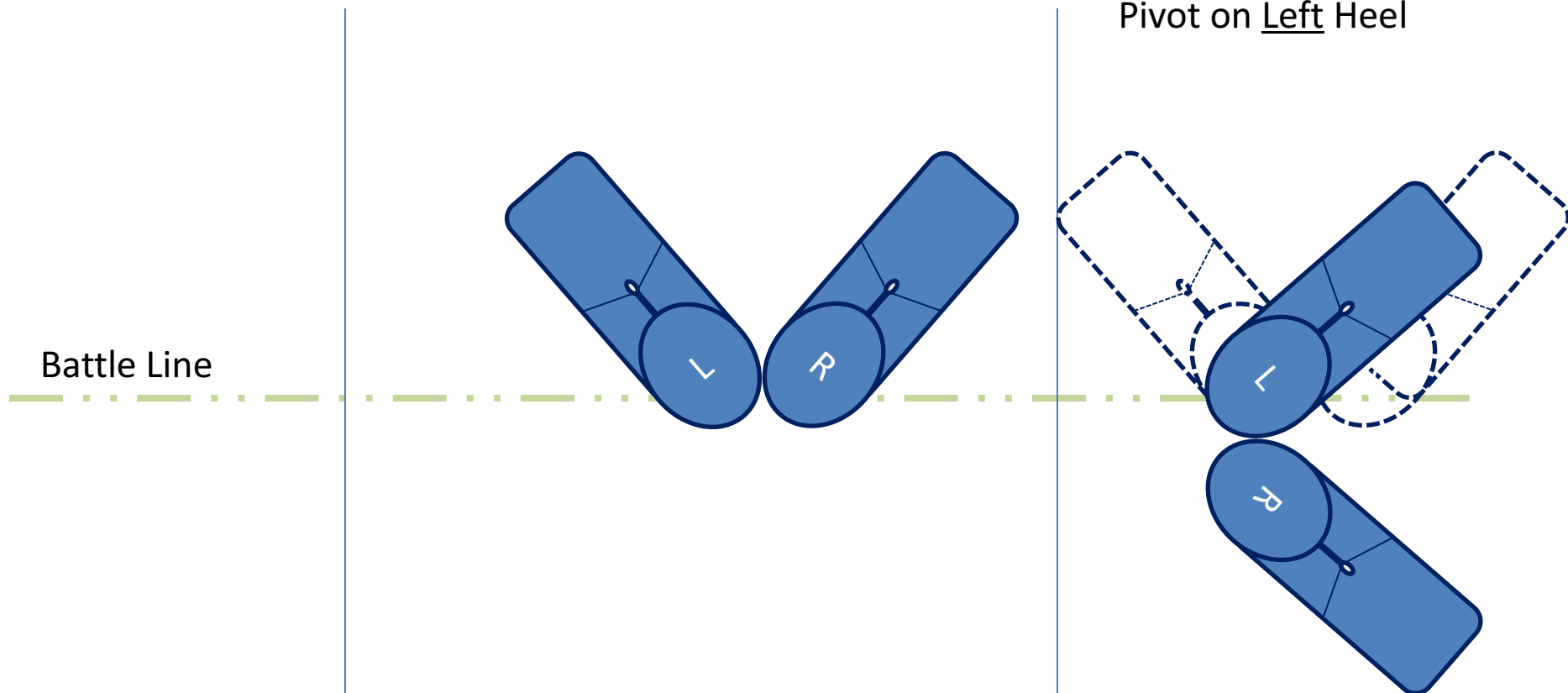
Pivot on Left Heel



1. Squad. 2. Right (or left)—FACE.

**96.** At the second command, raise the right foot slightly, turn on the left heel, raising the toes a little, and then replace the right heel by the side of the left, and on the same line.

# Facings – Right Face (pivot on left heel)



1. *Squad.* 2. *Right (or left)—FACE.*

**96.** At the second command, raise the right foot slightly, turn on the left heel, raising the toes a little, and then replace the right heel by the side of the left, and on the same line.

# Repeat:

## ALL facings Always Pivot on the Left Heel!

- Feels natural for a left face
- Feels awkward for a right face!
  - Although more natural feel to pivot on right heel – DON'T pivot on right heel!
    - Doing so deranges the line!
  - Modern military facing (pivot on heel of the facing) – DON'T pivot on right heel!
- Practice
  - Don't try to 'hop-twist' to the right
  - Turn the hips first, makes it easier to pivot on left heel

# Always Pivot on the Left Heel!

## You have got to make it work.

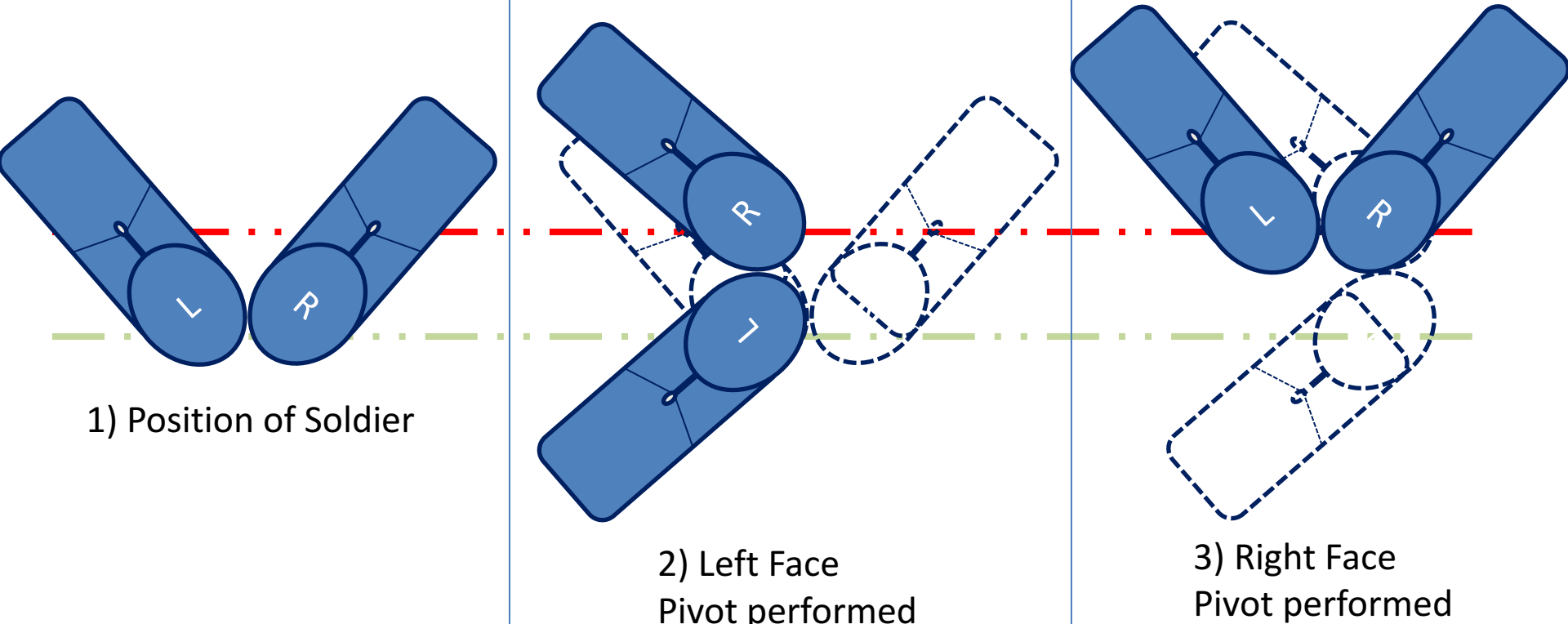
- Pivoting on different heels causes the battle line to shift (to the side and front)
  - Results in a shift of a couple inches
    - imagine 'walking' a skateboard where the pivot is on the wheels, an exaggeration but good visual
  - However, becomes apparent on repeated motions
    - Left face – front, left face – front, etc...
    - Right face – front, right face – front, etc...
    - Ready – Shoulder Arms – Ready – Shoulder Arms – Ready – Shoulder Arms- etc...
    - Load – Ready/Aim/Fire – Load – Ready/Aim/Fire – Load – Ready/Aim/Fire - etc...
  - Deranges alignment when facing by the flank
    - If all soldiers do not execute the facing by pivoting on same heel
  - Deranges alignment when firing in the field
    - Safety issue !!!!!!!!
- Imagine the left heel nailed in place
  - Anchor the left heel

# Do Not Pivot on Different Heels

It eventually deranges the battle line.

Left Face – Front

Face to left on left heel – Face to the right on right heel



1) Position of Soldier

2) Left Face  
Pivot performed  
on Left Heel

3) Right Face  
Pivot performed  
on Right Heel

shifted Battle Line  
After Front command



Original Battle Line



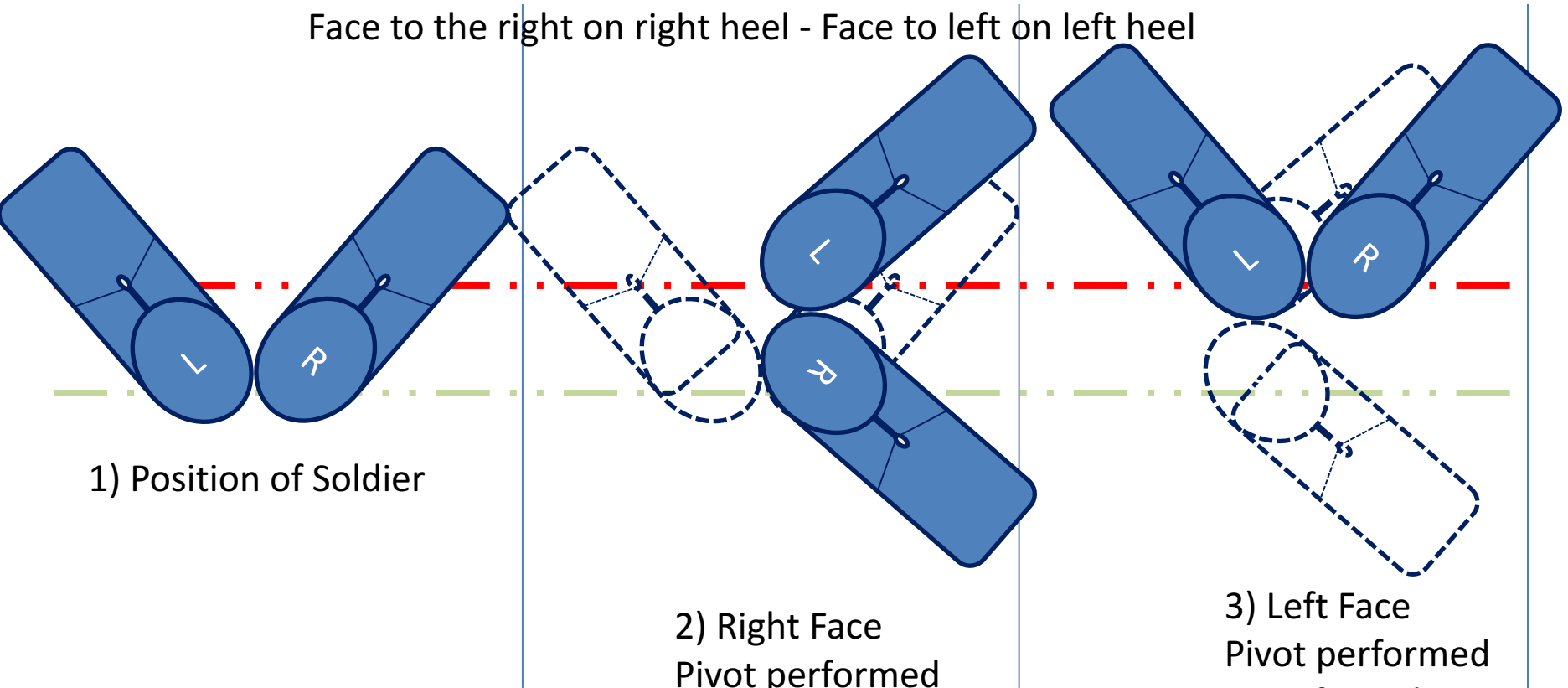
Result:  
Line is advanced  
And shifted left <sup>9</sup>

# Do Not Pivot on Different Heels

It eventually deranges the battle line.

Right Face – Front

Face to the right on right heel - Face to left on left heel



1) Position of Soldier

2) Right Face  
Pivot performed  
on Right Heel

3) Left Face  
Pivot performed  
on Left Heel

shifted Battle Line  
After Front command



Original Battle Line

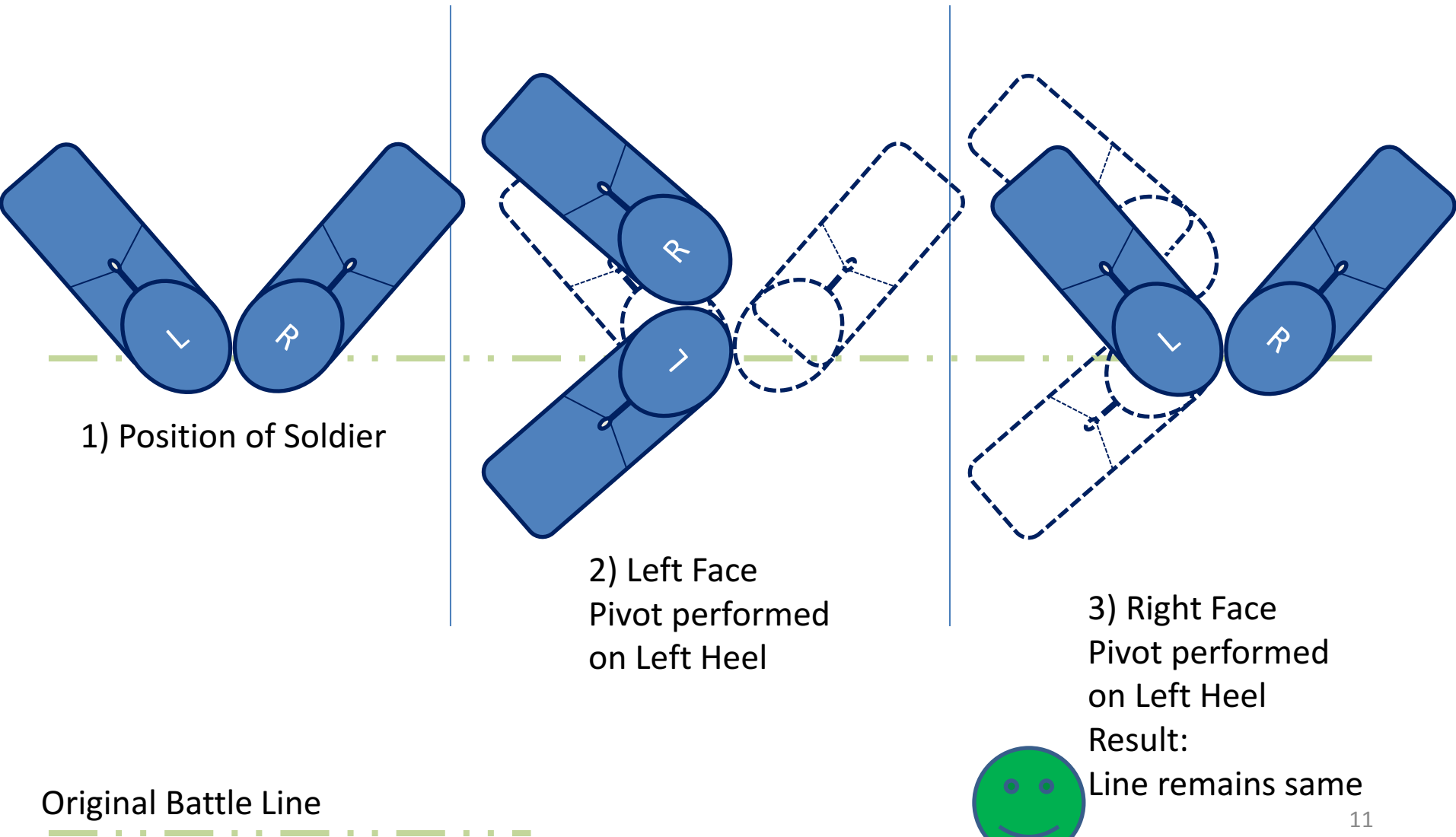


Result:  
Line is advanced  
And shifted right

# Always Pivot on Left Heel

It maintains the battle line.

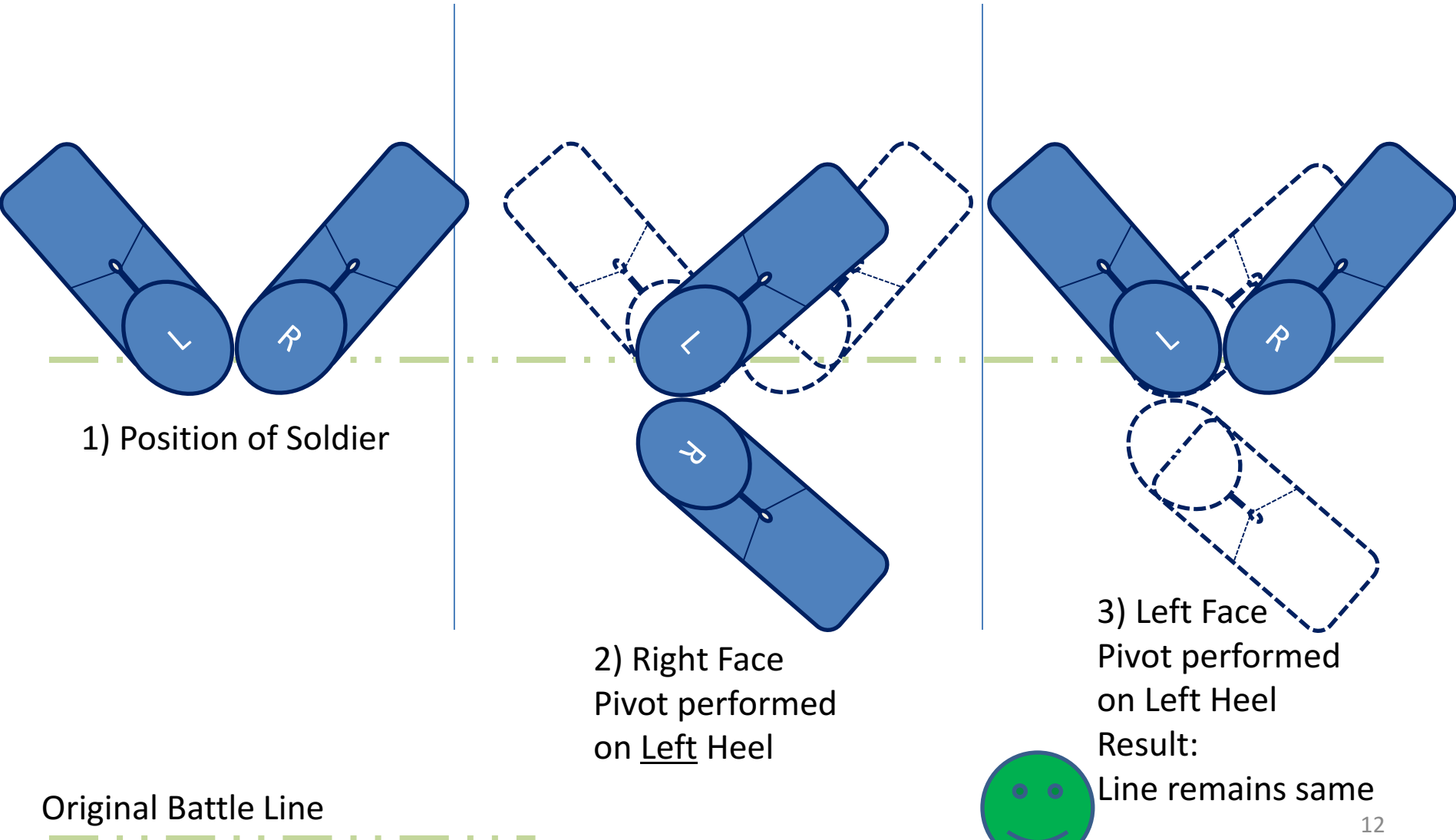
Left Face - Front



# Always Pivot on Left Heel

It maintains the battle line.

Right Face - Front



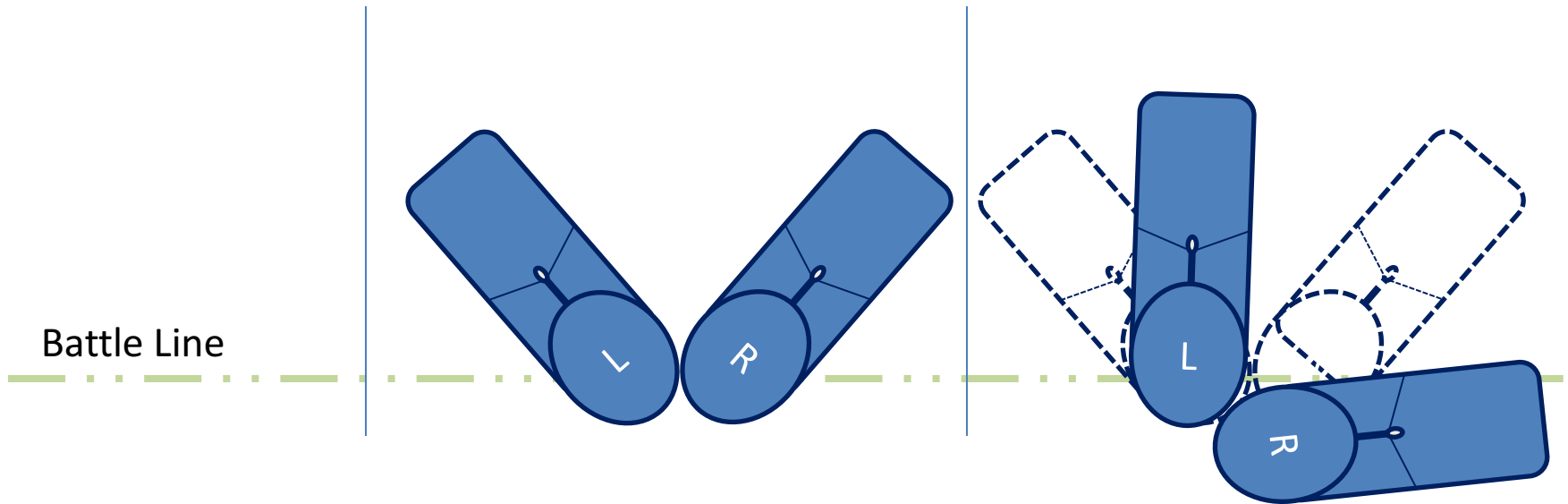
# The Half-Face to the Right

- This is not a command, but a measured movement
  - If your men don't know how to do this, then they can't execute the maneuvers of which it is a part
- It is a critical component of many maneuvers.
  - About Face
    - 98. (First time.) At the word about, the recruit will turn on the left heel, bring the left toe to the front, ...
  - Prime
    - 174. (First motion.) With the left hand raise the piece till the band is as high as the eye, grasp the small of the stock with the right hand; half face to the right; ...
  - Ready
    - 178. (First motion.) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand, making a half face to the right on the left heel; ...
  - Charge Bayonet
    - 202. (First motion.) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand and make a half face to the right on the left heel; ...
  - Guard against Infantry & Guard against Cavalry
    - 314. (First motion.) Make a half face to the right, turning on both heels, the feet square to each other; ...
  - Right (or left) oblique. MARCH
    - 340. At the second command, each man will make a half face to the right (or left), and will then march straight-forward in the new direction.
- Therefore, it is worth spending some time practicing it.

# Facings – Half-Face to the Right

This is not a command, but it is a critical component of many maneuvers.

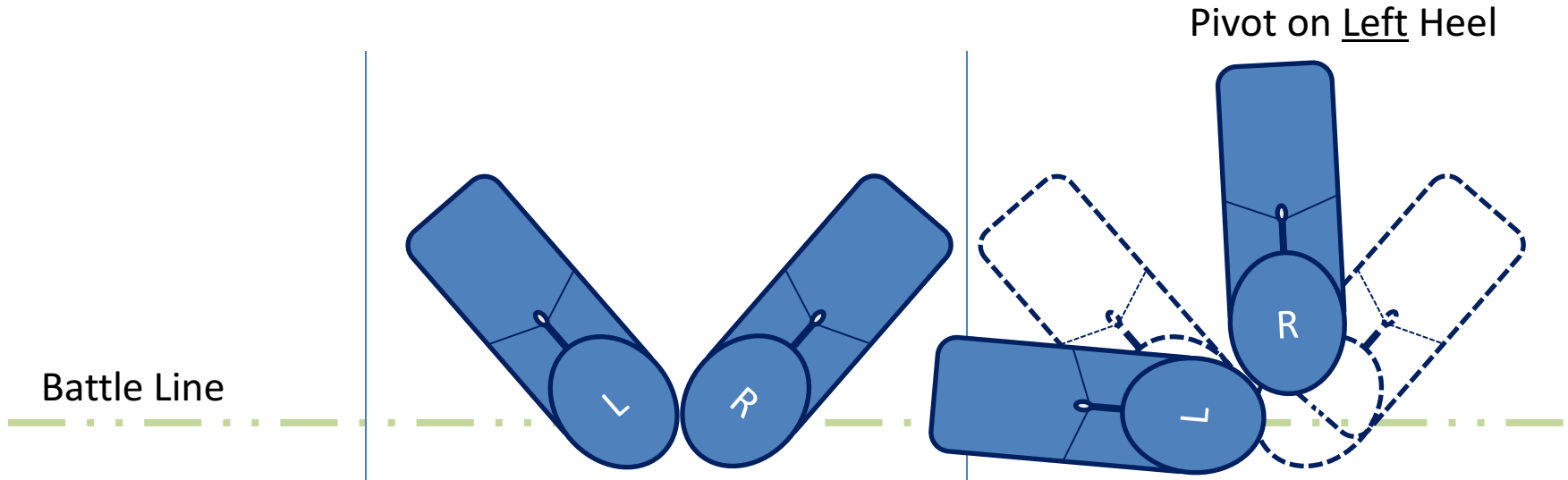
Pivot on Left Heel



- About Face
  - 98. (First time.) At the word about, the recruit will turn on the left heel, bring the left toe to the front, ...
- Prime
  - 174. (First motion.) With the left hand raise the piece till the band is as high as the eye, grasp the small of the stock with the right hand; half face to the right; ...
- Ready
  - 178. (First motion.) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand, making a half face to the right on the left heel; ...
- Charge Bayonet
  - 202. (First motion.) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand and make a half face to the right on the left heel; ...
- Guard against Infantry & Guard against Cavalry
  - 314. (First motion.) Make a half face to the right, turning on both heels, the feet square to each other; ...
- Right ~~(or left)~~-oblique. MARCH
  - 340. At the second command, each man will make a half face to the right (or left), and will then march straight-forward in the new direction.

# Facings – Half-Face to the Left

This is not a command, but it is a critical component of “left oblique MARCH”.



## • ~~Right (or Left) oblique. MARCH~~

- 340. At the second command, each man will make a half face to the right (or left), and will then march straight-forward in the new direction.

# Facings – About Face

- Use the correct command
  - “ABOUT-FACE” not “*Right About - FACE*”
- The command is always executed by turning to the right.
- There are two commands of execution in this maneuver and a pause is required between each command.
  - Allow the boys to complete the first execution.
  - Do not rush them.
  - Else you risk the boys getting tangled about their own legs and tripping, thereby putting the safety of their comrades at risk.

# Facings – About Face – First Time

- S.S. 97. The full face to the rear (or front) will be executed in two times, or pauses. The instructor will command.
  - 1. *Squad.* 2. ABOUT-FACE.
- S.S. 98. (First time.) At the word about, the recruit will turn on the left heel, bring the left toe to the front, carry the right foot to the rear, the hollow opposite to, and full three inches from, the left heel, the feet square to each other.
- The 3 inch separation is important!

Start = Position of the soldier

Half face to the right

Carry to the rear  
Hollow 3 inches from the heel



# Facings – About Face – Second Time

- S.S. 99. (Second time.) At the word face, the recruit will turn on both heels, raise the toes a little, extend the hams, face to the rear, bringing, at the same time, the right heel by the side of the left.
- S.S. 100. The instructor will take care that these motions do not derange the position of the body.
- That 3 inch separation allows the soldier to turn on both heels without getting tangled about their own legs and tripping!

Turn on both heels



Bring the right heel back



End of Lesson