

The Western Rifles

Line Officer Examination

By: Andrew Roscoe

1. If you are commanding the first company, and the battalion commander orders, "Change front to rear on first company," what actions must you take before the battalion commander can order, "march" ?
2. If you are the fourth company in the battalion, and the battalion commander orders, "fire by company, commence firing," after which company fires will you fire? Afterwards, with which company with you alternate firing?
3. If ordered to "face by the rear rank," which rank should fire first in a "fire by rank" ? From which end of the company should a "fire by file" begin?
4. As a captain, which person(s) should your orders go first in the chain of command?
5. Is it permissible, if your men are under arms, to have your sword sheathed?
6. What is the correct manner in which to salute while carrying your sword?
7. How many paces distant from the company in front of yours should you be, while in a column, closed en mass?
8. What is your proper position as company commander when in a column of companies?
9. If you are in a column of divisions or double column, and you are the junior company commander, what is your proper position?
10. Why is it the command "by inversion, right into line wheel" not possible while in a column of companies, closed en mass?
11. If you are commanding the tenth company, what would your company's position be in a double column?
12. If you are marching in a double column, and an enemy appears to your left, what is the proper order to deploy into line of battle to face it?
13. While commanding the third company in the battalion, during the command "Change front forward on last company, battalion, left half wheel, at the double quick, march," what are the commands you would give to your company? Where would you halt your company?
14. While commanding any company in the left wing of the battalion, where will you move upon hearing the command, "battalion, forward" ? When will you return to your position?
15. When the battalion is at the left face, what is the proper position of the captain?
16. After firing a company volley, what are the only two commands that you can give your company?

17. Given the command, "By the right of companies to the rear into column," how many files should you break off? What is your position during this maneuver?
18. If you are a Second Lieutenant in a company, and the only other officer is the captain, what is your proper place to parade with the company?
19. According to *Hardee's Tactics* and *Casey's Tactics*, what is the preferred speed of movement to deploy under fire?
20. What are the differences between a column closed en mass, at half distance, and at full distance?
21. Which drill manual uses the command, "Forward into line" ?
22. At what spacing can "Forward into line" be used? Why?
23. Do *Casey's Tactics* encourage a column to be at full distance or closed en mass? What do *Hardee's Tactics* encourage?
24. What is the advantage of deploying a double column over a column of divisions while under fire from the front?
25. If you are marching in a battalion by the right flank down a road, and find an enemy line of battle drawn up across the road, with his center on the road, what would be the proper commands to form your battalion into a line of battle to oppose the enemy? Why?
26. When the battalion is marching in a column of companies, left in front, what side should the guide be to? Why?
27. While on skirmish duty, how are your men allowed to carry their weapons?
28. How far back from the skirmish line should the reserve be?
29. What is the purpose of the reserve while skirmishing?
30. If your battalion is in a line of battle, facing north, when an enemy approaches from the east, and you do not wish to have your left flank in advance of where it now sits, what is the appropriate command for the battalion?
31. As a company commander, what is your proper position while the company is firing?
32. During morning parade, after the ranks have been opened, where should the First Lieutenant be standing?
33. The reveille (played on the drums) is heard in the morning. If your First Sergeant is taking roll call, is it necessary for you or another officer from the company to be there?
34. If instead of reveille, you hear "The General" in the morning, what should you order your company to do after morning roll call?
35. Who is the officer responsible for the Grand Guards for a brigade?
36. During a long roll, what should you direct your company to do?