

## MANNER OF FORMING THE COMPANY.

### From Gilham's

216. THE whole company being assembled on its parade ground, or in the rendezvous, the first, or orderly sergeant, will command:

Fall in - COMPANY.

At this command the corporals and privates will form in one rank, faced to the right, and in the order of height from right to left, the tallest man on the right (now head of the company), the next tallest man immediately covering the first, and so on to the left or rear of the rank, in which position will be placed the shortest man. The other sergeants will take post in the rank of file-closers, two paces the right of the company, and assist the first sergeant in forming the company.

When the men have their places, the first sergeant will command:

FRONT.

The second sergeant, who is the left guide of the company, will now place himself on the left of the company, and the orderly sergeant will promptly command:

1. *In two ranks, form company.* 2. *Left - FACE.* 3. *MARCH.*

At the command left face, the whole company will face to the left, except the guide and man on the left, who stand fast.

At the command march, the whole of the men who have faced to left, will step off together; the second man, counting from the left, will place himself in the rear rank, behind the man next to the guide, and face to the front; the two following men will, in like manner, on closing up, form the next file, the third man in the front, and the fourth in the rear rank behind him, and all the other men will come successively to form files, two deep, to the right of those already formed.<sup>1</sup>

The officers will now take their posts as prescribed in No. 8; if the captain has to discharge the duties of instructor, the first lieutenant will take his place on the right of the front rank, the second lieutenant replacing the first behind the fourth section.

The instructor will then cause the files to be numbered, and for this purpose will command

*In each rank - count TWOS.*

At this command the men count in each rank from right to left, pronouncing in a loud and distinct voice, in the same tone, without hurry and without turning the head, one, two, according to the place each one occupies. He will also cause the company to be divided into platoons and sections, taking care that the first platoon is always composed of an even number of files.

**16<sup>th</sup> La. Infantry  
Company D, Walker Roughs  
Weekend Drill Schedule**

<b><u>SATURDAY</u></b>		<b><u>RESPONSIBLE</u></b>
7:00-8:00	Role call	Orderly Sergeant
	Police camp/pack knapsacks/cook, etc.	Orderly Sergeant
8:00 – 9:30	Company Formation	Orderly Sergeant
	Assignment of Platoons and Sections	Orderly Sergeant
	Manual of Arms	Orderly Sergeant
	Doubling Concept	Orderly Sergeant
	Wheeling	Orderly Sergeant
	By Company into Line	Orderly Sergeant
	On the Right by file into line	Orderly Sergeant
	Assignment of fatigue details	Orderly Sergeant
	Post guards as orders demand	Orderly Sergeant
9:30 – 10:00	Break	All
10:00-11:00	Firing Sequences	Captain
	Skirmish Drill	Captain
11:00-11:15	Break	All
11:15 – 11:30	Stacking of Arms, Brief Manual of Arms	Orderly Sergeant
 <b><u>SUNDAY</u></b>		
7:00-8:00	Role call	Orderly Sergeant
	Police camp/pack knapsacks/cook, etc.	All
8:00 – 9:30	Company Formation	Orderly Sergeant
	Assignment of Platoons and Sections	Orderly Sergeant
	Manual of Arms	Orderly Sergeant
	Doubling	Orderly Sergeant
	Church services as per the event schedule	As desired
10:30-11:15	Drill session covering items needing attention based on Saturday's performance on the drill field and during battle	Captain
	Firing sequences	Captain
	Skirmish Drill	Captain

Notes: The Corporals should work with recruits between Friday night and Saturday morning on manual of arms and at a minimum the doubling concept. Corporals should also take charge of the assignment and execution of fatigue duties (water, firewood, guard) with some direction from the Orderly Sergeant.

Orderly to turn in morning report to the adjutant at either 9:30 or 11:00 break. Write in number of rounds and caps available.

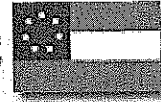
At all times between morning role call and the dismissal from battle, all privates and NCO's leaving camp shall notify the orderly sergeant of their intentions to leave camp.

All recruits should be tended to by their sponsoring veteran. At a minimum, they should get the following instruction from their sponsor before being presented to the Corporals:

- Manual of arms
- Loading of the weapon
- Doubling concept



# The Stonewall Brigade

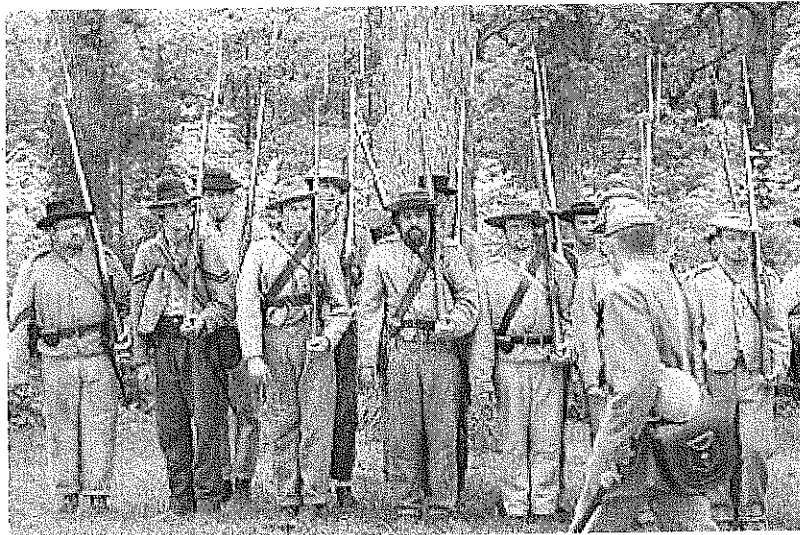


2nd Virginia Infantry    27th Virginia Infantry  
 4th Virginia Infantry    33rd Virginia Infantry  
 5th Virginia Infantry



## Articles

### Roll Call



Military manuals and soldier's accounts from the time of the Civil War indicate that the company roll was to be called three times a day: at reveille (the first formation of the day), retreat (near sunset), and tattoo (9-9:30 p.m.). It is apparent that these roll-calls were viewed as military formations and it appears that there was a set routine followed for the calling of the roll.

In order to better our military impression at events we will attempt a closer adherence to the available manuals of the period. The most complete description of how roll-calls were undertaken can be found in August Kautz's "Customs of Service". He describes the routine as follows:

*At all roll calls the first sergeant takes his place six or eight paces, according as the company is small or large, in front of and opposite the center of his company, facing towards it. If the company is forming without arms, the men fall in and take the position of parade rest, and the first sergeant takes the same position.*

*They should fall in in two ranks, whether with our without arms. With arms they fall in at a shoulder arms instead of at parade rest. The company is formed in the interval between the musician's call and the last note of the assembly(reveille) when every man should be in ranks; and those who fall in afterwards should be punished for being late.*

When the music has ceased, the first sergeants commands, "Attention!" whereupon the company, if at parade rest, take the position of the soldier, and if with arms, the sergeant adds, "Support arms." The roll is then called, commencing with sergeants, Adams, Smith, &c., in the order of rank, until all are called; then "corporals, "Brown, Jones, &c., to "farriers;" then "buglers or musicians;" and finally "privates," Ames, Brown, Cox &c., in alphabetical order. As each names is called, they answer, "Here;" and if with arms at a support they come to a "shoulder" and finally to "order arms," immediately on answering to their names"

After the roll has been called, the first sergeant turns to the officer superintending the roll call, and reports the absentees by name. If none are absent without proper authority, he reports, "All present or accounted for." If the officer should then take command of the company, the first sergeant takes his post on the right of the company, and acts as right guide.

If you are wondering, yes "Customs of Service" is a federal manual. Unfortunately, Gilham's Manual does not specify how a roll call was to be conducted. However, if you read Gilham's description of a muster you will notice not so subtle similarities between Kautz's Roll Call and Gilham's muster. These similarities include how each soldier was to answer his name ("Here") and what he was to do with his musket immediately afterwards. Given the similarities between these two manuals on a closely related subject, and because "Customs of Service" may be the only Civil War period manual that contains an in depth description of how a roll-call was to be conducted, it would seem that the use of Kautz's roll-call is a safe choice for the SWB.

I do not suggest that every roll-call conducted during the war was taken in the manner Kautz describes. Obviously there would be times when the men would be much fatigued from march or battle and a roll call in another less strict form would be instituted. On the other hand, it is apparent that the roll-call described by Kautz and referenced by other military publications of the period became an integral part of routine camp life. The use of Kautz's system of roll-call will improve the military impression of the brigade while creating little or no increase in work for the men in the ranks.

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Sources:

*Gilham's Manual for Volunteers and Militia*  
*Customs of Service for Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers*  
*Regulations for the Army of the Confederate States*  
*The Military Handbook and Soldiers Manual*

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# PICKET DUTY AND POSTING SENTRIES

By Corporal Burkenstock

This article is largely lifted from an article written by Marcus Reno in the September 2006

Camp Chase Gazette. I would encourage all to read it thoroughly as we plan to post pickets at our winter meeting/bivouac.

Typically, units do not post pickets at mainstream events. Quality, veteran reenacting groups are trained in this duty and those that can perform it set themselves apart. Captain Neal and Sergeant Engle have done a good job drilling us in company drill and skirmish drill. It would be a credit if we could add this facet of military life to our repertoire.

Picket duty was an absolute necessity for the protection of the army. Establishing a picket line around a camp was at times complicated. Sentinels were posted in three lines:

- The Advance Pickets- sometimes a mile or two from camp
- The Second Guard
- The Rear Guard or Reserves, assigned to the perimeter of the camp

Periodically, "Grand Rounds" was performed by the Officer of the Day, NCO's and a small detachment of men going from post to post for information and to check the alertness of the sentries.

The following are Guidelines for posting sentinels from 1861 regulations, Hardee's and other sources. Prior to posting the sentinels or relief, the following things were done:

1. Arms Inspection
2. Load musket
3. Fix bayonet
4. Box Inspection
5. Check ammunition

Relief Procedure:

1. Relief marches at support arms, in two ranks by the flank, conducted by a corporal. The man on the right of the front rank is "number 1". Should an officer approach, the relief should go to shoulder arms.
2. When a sentinel sees the relief approaching he will halt and face it with arms at shoulder arms.
3. At six paces, the corporal will command, "relief" and "halt". The relief will shoulder arms. The corporal will then call out the number of the relief man, "Number 1, Arms Port".
4. The called relief will then approach the sentinel, both at arms port. The old and new sentinel will then whisper instructions and countersign to each other. This done, the two will shoulder arms and the old sentinel will pass in quick time to his place at the rear of the column.
5. The Corporal will then command "support arms", "forward march" and relief proceeds in this manner until all are relieved.

Other Rules and Procedures:

1. Countersign is given to any who are entitled to pass during the night, and to officers, noncoms and sentinels for the guard
2. Sentinels will not take orders or allow themselves to be relieved except by the officer or noncom of the guard party, in which case the orders are immediately forwarded to the commander of the guard by the officer giving them.
3. Sentinels should keep themselves alert, observing everything that takes place within sight and hearing of his post. They will carry their arms habitually at support, or on either shoulder, but will never quit them. In wet weather, if there is no sentry box, they will secure arms.
4. No sentinel will quit his post.
5. A sentinel will challenge every person who approaches him, taking at the same time, the position of arms port. He will not allow any person to come nearer than within the reach of his bayonet.
6. A sentinel in challenging will call out, "Halt, Who comes there?" If answered, "Friend with the countersign" he will reply "Advance one with the countersign". If answered "Relief" "Patrol" or "Grand Rounds", the sentinel will reply "Advance Sergeant or Corporal with the countersign. The sentinel will ask the countersign and satisfy himself that they are who they claim.
7. If the approaching party has no countersign or gives the wrong one, they will be caused to stand and the sentinel will call "Corporal or Sergeant of the Guard!"