

School of the Soldier

Parades and Memorial Services

For use of the Color and Honor Guard

This manual has been compiled by the members of the old Jubal Early Camp #1691 SCV, as a study guide for members which participate in parades, memorial services and other related services. The information contained within this manual has been compiled from multiple sources which include the manuals used by our ancestors prior to and during the war years. Also, personal experiences by members belonging to reenactment units have been included to aid in the explanation of certain texts.

Many of the items found in this manual will deal with situations commonly found and performed at public ceremonies. We will address basic weapons handling, marching, salutes, firing, proper placement of standards, etc.

Funerals and Memorial Services

Memorial Services for veterans are the most common formation in which our Honor and Color Guards find themselves, yet on occasion we are called upon to give one of our own members a proper send off with full Confederate Rights. The following is taken from pre war manuals regarding funeral services. This can be applied to all memorial services and funerals in which participation is required.

Where a command is listed, a dash will indicate a slight hesitation. The preliminary command will be in *italics* with the execution part in **bold**.

The funeral escort shall consist of as many uniformed personnel as possible (being such that it would be of great difficulty to obtain the set number of escort required by the manual).

The escort will be formed in two ranks, opposite the location of the deceased, with shouldered arms and bayonets unfixed; the artillery and cavalry on the right of the infantry. In instances where the body is being taken from a funeral home or church, the escort (if sufficient number is available and at the discrimination of the commander) should form two ranks facing inwards. As the body passes, each shall salute accordingly. (Figure 1) Upon placement in the hearse, they shall take their places with the main body of the escort.

On the appearance of the corpse (in instances of funerals or a re-interment), the officer commanding the escort will command:

Present - Arms

When the honors due to the deceased will be paid by the drums and trumpets (bagpipes, or fife & drums) shall be played using an appropriate air (tune), and the coffin will then be taken to the right, where it will be halted. The commander will next order;

Shoulder - Arms. By company (or platoon or detail), left wheel - March; Reverse - Arms. Column, forward - guide right - March.

(Figure 2)

The arms will be reversed at the order by bringing the firelock (lockplate) under the left arm, butt to the front, barrel downward, left hand sustaining the lock, the right steadying the firelock (lockplate) at the small of the stock. Swords are to be reversed in the same manner under the right arm.

The column will be marched in slow time to solemn music (slow and easy steps), and on reaching the grave, will take a direction so that the guides shall be next to the grave. (Slight readjustment may need to be made in a cemetery in regards to head stones and location of family members). Appropriate turns and related commands should be given as needed. When the center of the column is opposite the grave, the commander will order;

Column - Halt. Right into line - March

(This may also be executed as a wheel)
(Placement of escort at Cemetery in Figure 3)

The coffin is then brought along the front, to the opposite side of the grave, and the commander orders as the coffin passes;

Shoulder - Arms. Present - Arms.

And when the coffin reaches the grave, he adds;

Shoulder - Arms. Rest on - Arms.

The rest on arms is done by placing the muzzle on the left foot, both hands on the butt, the head on the hands or bowed, right knee slightly bent. The lockplate facing forward.

After the funeral is performed, the senior officer, color sergeant, and one other guard will step forward to the coffin where the color sergeant and guard will respectfully remove the draped flag and carefully fold the flag. Upon folding the color sergeant shall present the flag to the officer with proper salutes from both as the flag is passed. The officer shall then respectfully present the flag to the next of kin or senior family member present, followed by appropriate salute. The officer and guards shall then move off and join the escort. When the coffin is lowered (this may differ according to family wishes) the commander will order;

Attention - Shoulder - Arms - Load.

When three rounds of small arms have been fired by the escort, taking care to elevate the pieces; the commander will order;

*By company (or platoon or detail), right wheel - **March** (this formation command may be altered at the commander's discretion). Column - forward - **March**.*

The music will not begin to play until the escort is clear of the enclosure (or immediate location of the gravesite).

When the distance to the place of internment is considerable, the escort may march in common time and in column of route, after leaving the camp or garrison (funeral home or chapel), and till it approaches the burial ground.

The escort shall be dressed in proper attire with basic accouterments. Officers shall be armed with side arms. The proper badge of military mourning is a piece of black crape around the left arm, above the elbow, and also upon the sword hilt; and will be worn when in full or in undress (non military uniform). The drums of a funeral escort will be covered with black crape, or thin black serge.

PARADES

Appearance of the Color Guard and Honor Guard where participation in parades and other ceremonies requiring marching, other than that performed at memorial services and funeral will be addressed here. Certain maneuvers are conducted during a parade which were not covered in the previous section. These are marching and placements of personnel.

The Formation

The traditional formation of a "Column of Companies" will be the basic one used for parades where room for maneuvering is allowed. For this section the group will be referred to as a "company" and the Color Sergeant as the "NCO".

This formation is formed in "Two Ranks" or tow lines. The "Guide" or means of which the formation will line up on and be guided by will always be to the right, unless the Colors are a part of the said formation and at which time will be centered upon them. In certain circumstances the guide may have to be switched to one end or the other to accommodate any obstructions. (This formation may be altered, according to number present, to a single rank at the Commander's discretion).

Posting of Colors, Officer, and Support Personnel

The Colors shall be posted in the center of the formation with the National Flag(s) on the right, followed by the State Flag(s), and the Regimental (or Camp) Flag. Escorts on the immediate flanks of the Colors should not have bayonets fixed, unless ordered otherwise. Unless ordered otherwise, the flags should remain in their respective carrying harness, and the flanking escorts shall remain at Shoulder Arms whenever the flags are being carried. Flags do not have to be in their harnesses when the order to Order Arms has been given. When the formation is ordered to fire, the flags are advised to take at least two paces to the rear. If a second rank is being used, the said rank should step to the front in place of the Colors during firing sequences. When firing has ceased, the Colors may return to their original positions. At the order to Present Arms, the Colors shall, with the exception of the National Flag(s), "dip" at a 45 degree angle; remaining in said position until ordered otherwise.

The Commander shall post to the front of the formation, and when firing shall place himself to the rear of the formation. When marching, he should keep himself approximately 4-5 paces in front of the formation.

The Color Sergeant or NCO, shall place himself on the immediate right of the Company's front rank. If there are more than one present, then the Color Sergeant may place himself immediately to the right of the Colors. The NCO should function as a guide, and to relay orders of the Commander. The NCO may also order any adjustments and shifts of arms that may be needed.

Other officers should place themselves to the rear of the Company. While at this position they should assist the Commander in assuring proper alignment and safety. They should also anticipate any problems that the Commander may not be aware of and work quickly to solve and that may arise.

Any musicians accompanying the Company should form behind the Commander and in front of the formation at approximately the same distance as the Commander. When firing the musicians should remain with the Commander, unless otherwise instructed. Musicians should follow their normal protocol regarding formations, unless otherwise instructed.

Positions of Weapons & etc.

Muskets shall be handled in the following manners:

- Shoulder Arms - Carried with the left hand supporting the butt, with the barrel resting on the left shoulder. (Colors are to be in harness).
- Support Arms - The musket should be raised slightly on the left shoulder with the bend of the arm supporting the weapon behind the hammer. The order *Rest* may be used for

additional support, where the right hand may be used to support the stock behind the lockplate.

- Right Shoulder Shift - The musket is transferred to the right shoulder, held high with the right hand supporting the butt.
- Order Arms - The musket should be allowed to rest on the right side of the bearer. (Colors may be taken from the harness and handled in like manner as the musket).
- In Place Rest - The musket should be held with the right hand near the top band with the left hand resting on the wrist of the right hand.
- Parade Rest - The bearer should bring the right foot and shoulder slightly back allowing the musket to rest, in the bend of the right arm, with hands clasped in front at waist height. (Colors again may be handled in like manner as the musket).
- Attention - All arms and colors should return to proper posture according to position of arms at the time.
- Present Arms - Should be executed from Shoulder Arms. The musket is brought to the front of the bearer with lockplate facing out. The bearer should place the second (middle) band at eye level. (Colors are to "dip" except for the National Flag(s)).
- For the officers carrying sabers; Whenever, the formation is carrying arms, the saber should be drawn and shouldered along the right side at all times. Proper saber etiquette is very impressive when making an appearance.
 - For Present Arms, the saber should be pointed down at the side of the right toe, with palm forward. No need to bring it up to the face and then out to the side (that is a modern army thing).
 - For Rest on Arms, the saber should be placed with the point between the feet, with hands clasped on the end of the hilt, head bowed.
 - Reverse Arms, the saber should be carried in a like manner as the musket.
 - At Parade Rest, the saber should be positioned in like manner as Rest on Arms. The saber may be returned to its sheath when the Company is at rest.

Firing

Firing is an excellent and expected part of any appearance. When firing the command will be given at a certain point, usually at the discretion of the commanding officer, to Load. The following sequence is the basic procedure and commands for firing volleys.

- **Load** - Load the musket with blank cartridge. (It may be at the Commander or NCO's discretion as to ram the load or not.) When the cartridge is loaded, proceed to prime the weapon with a cap. Take extra caution priming as most accidents occur during this and the following stages. It is recommended to prime with the weapon at half-cock only. Once the weapon is loaded and primed, come to the **Ready** position unless instructed to do otherwise.
- **Ready** - Bring the weapon to the ready position as instructed by the NCO's or Commander (this position varies among commanders and units according to which manual of arms they use -make sure everyone is at the same position).

- **Aim** - Aim the musket at an elevated level to insure the safety of all personnel (spectators, participants, etc.) **Aim High!** Try to maintain the same level as all those firing.
- **Fire** - At the command, discharge the weapon and remain in the aiming position until ordered to **Load**. Repeat the previous steps until ordered to **Cease Fire**, at which time the formation shall return to *Shoulder Arms*.

Marching

Marching is rather simple to do, yet it contains part of the most impressive maneuvers. Cadence is very important in maintaining a well dressed formation, it can be given verbally by an NCO or by listening to the tunes played by fifes and drums when present.

The verbal cadence usually falls in the form of using simple words to express which foot the personnel are to be stepping to. For example it may be given in the form of 1 - 1 - 1,2,1 (1 meaning left, and two right) or it can use an old favorite of drill masters of the era; Hay-foot - Hay-foot - Hay-foot, Straw-foot, Hay-foot (they would place hay in one hand and straw in the other or tie it around their feet). Cadence can be done in many different ways, as all NCO's have their own preference.

Musical cadence can become harder to follow, especially if the musical selection changes, as many field musicians are prone to do without warning. This is where an experienced NCO with an ear for music can quickly and simply give a few verbal reminders to the troops. However, simply just listen for the "heavy" beat of the drums; it takes a lot of practice until you get used to it and is still hard to keep up with. The music for the most part controls the number of "Steps per minute" and every tune can either speed up or slow down the rate of march. The presence of a musical section always adds a special touch no matter what instruments are being used.

Different turns are always a problem for any unit when marching and maneuvering into positions. For the most part, funerals, and parades will be simple "wheels." To conduct a wheel, the Commander will execute the following order;

Company by the _____ wheel, a pause will be present until the company is in position, **March**.

To execute a wheel, the entire formation will swing like on a door hinge. According to the direction given for the turn, the end person on the end in which the turn will go (if right person on the left end, and if the left person on the right end) will basically pivot in place, while turning in the desired direction. The opposite end shall step in long strides while looking toward the other end to ensure that the center of the formation is turning in synchronization. All personnel in between the two ends should also look in toward the pivot as well to ensure they are correctly aligned and not stepping too fast or too slowly. The Commander will then command when heading in the correct direction.

Forward March

At which time the formation will resume a forward direction. However, the order to **Halt** may also be given according to circumstance.

A rare command may sometimes be given; ex:

_____ **Rear Wheel or Center Wheel** may be given. At which time the previous is reversed. This is not often done as it enhances safety concerns as the formation is marching backwards. A Center Wheel is where the center of the formation pivots and the wings either forward or reverse wheel in the desired direction.