

1. Despite its fundamental importance, the actual assembly of the Battalion is not explicitly covered in the standard manuals, the Tactics simply stating that:
EVERY colonel will labor to habituate his battalion to form line of battle, by night as well as by day, with the greatest possible promptitude.
2. In the directions for musicians, it is stated that:
The color-company will generally be designated as the directing company. That, as soon as formed, will be placed on the direction the colonel may have determined for the line of battle. The other companies will form on it, to the right and left, on the principles of successive formations which will be prescribed.
3. The General is actually the signal to break camp (take down tents an hour before departing). The Drummer's Call (beaten on the drum) or Attention (sounded on the bugle), are reasonable first calls.
4. Ten minutes after the first call, the Assembly is beaten (sounded). The "1st. Serjeant" form their companies on their respective parade grounds (ie, the company streets) under the supervision of their commanders, the field officers having general supervision. The Battalion Commander moves to the Battalion Parade Ground, while the Adjutant forms the Color Guard.

5. The Adjutant then posts two markers, facing to the right, one each in front of where the right and left of the Color Company (right center company) is to lie. At the Adjutant's word, the Color Company marches to the markers and dresses on them. At To the Color (or Adjutant's Call on Parade), the remaining companies march to the Parade Ground.
 6. The companies arrive from center to flank - the companies on the right and left of the Color Company arriving first, the flank companies last. As each company arrives, it halts three paces behind the line, posts its outer guide (right guide if in the right wing, left guide if in the left wing) on the line of markers and facing them (facing inward). The company commander moves to the inner flank of his company, dresses on the center, and returns to the right of his company, as in successive formations (Figure 1).
 7. Each company comes to Support Arms when the company that follows it into line has dressed. When the Battalion Commander is satisfied with the alignment, he orders:
Guides - POSTS.
- The guides return to their places in line.

POCKET GUIDE

for

ASSEMBLING THE BATTALION.

AS EXTRACTED FROM

PARADE, INSPECTION AND BASIC EVOLUTIONS OF THE INFANTRY BATTALION 3rd EDITION

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1861.

Printed by Order of the War Department.

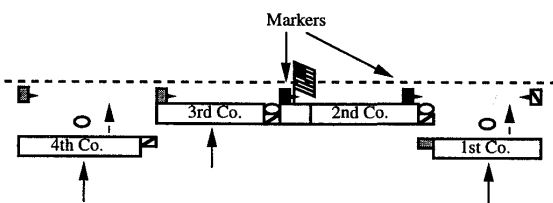


Figure 54. Forming the Battalion.

At Assembly, the companies form and two markers are posted where the Color Company will lie in line of battle. The Adjutant posts two markers, facing right, to indicate where the Color Company is to form. The Color Company, at the Adjutant's word, forms on the markers; at To the Color, the other companies march from their respective parade grounds to the Battalion Parade Ground (the Color Company could actually form on the markers at that time, followed by the others). The next companies to form are those on either side of the Color Company, and so on, the flank companies being the last. Each company halts three paces behind the line, posts its outer guide, and dresses on the line. Companies Support Arms when the company that follows it dresses on the line. When the Battalion is aligned, its Commander orders "Guides-POST."