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FM 17-5

WAR DEPARTMENT

**ARMORED FORCE FIELD
MANUAL**



ARMORED FORCE DRILL

January 18, 1943'

FM 17-5

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MANUAL**



ARMORED FORCE DRILL



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BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

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(For explanation of symbols see FM 21-6.)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
CHAPTER 1. Individual instruction.		
SECTION I. General-----	1-4	1
II. Special instruction for occupants of vehicles-----	5-6	29
CHAPTER 2. Mounted drill-----	7-17	31
CHAPTER 3. Platoon and company formations-----	18-20	59
CHAPTER 4. Ceremonies and inspections.		
SECTION I. General-----	21-25	65
II. Reviews-----	26-39	66
III. Parades-----	40-41	74
IV. Escorts-----	42-47	74
V. Inspections-----	48-52	76
INDEX-----		83

ARMORED FORCE FIELD MANUAL

ARMORED FORCE DRILL

(This manual supersedes FM 17-5, January 12, 1941, including Changes No. 1, March 7, 1942.)

CHAPTER 1

INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION

	Paragraphs
SECTION I. General.....	1-4
II. Special instruction for occupants of vehicles.....	5-6

SECTION I

GENERAL

■ 1. **PURPOSE AND SCOPE.**—The purpose of drill is to teach control, discipline, and teamwork. Drill may take the form of dismounted movements on a parade ground, or it may consist of combat exercises and crew drills in the field.

a. Dismounted drill.—(1) The procedures, formations, and movements for dismounted drill and for dismounted ceremonies are prescribed in FM 22-5. In addition, certain dismounted formations are prescribed in this manual.

(2) The evolutions of dismounted drill do not apply to mounted drill.

b. Mounted drill.—Mounted drill is covered in chapter 2.

c. Crew drills.—Crew drills for individual armored force vehicles are prescribed in appropriate Field Manuals. (See FM 21-6.)

■ 2. **DEFINITIONS.**—The following definitions are in addition to those contained in FM 22-5:

a. Agent scout and reconnaissance.—An individual sent out to reconnoiter. Also a messenger.

b. Armored reconnaissance car.—An armored reconnaissance car is a completely armored, wheeled, combat vehicle, designed primarily for reconnaissance.

c. Assembly.—The regular grouping in close order of the elements of a command. The grouping of units in areas, prior to or following combat, for the purpose of coordination or reorganization preceding further effort or movement.

d. Base.—The element on which a formation or movement is regulated.

e. Car (tank) commander.—The senior member of the crew present with the vehicle.

f. Car, half-track.—A partially armored, half-track combat vehicle designed for reconnaissance, personnel carrier, or prime mover.

g. Carrier, 81-mm mortar.—A partially armored, half-track combat vehicle, similar to the half-track car, designed as a self-propelled mortar mount.

h. Carrier, personnel.—A partially armored, half-track combat vehicle designed primarily to transport personnel and weapons to, from, and on the battlefield.

i. Close order.—Any formation in which units are arranged in line or column with intervals and distances of 25 yards or less.

j. Column.—A formation in which the elements are placed one behind another.

k. Combat vehicle.—A self-propelled, armed vehicle, with or without armor, manned by combat personnel.

l. Command car.—A motor vehicle, either armored or unarmored, usually equipped with communication facilities for the exercise of command and used to transport command personnel.

m. Crew.—The personnel that mans a vehicle or a weapon requiring more than one man for its proper operation.

n. Deployment.—An extension of the front of a command.

o. Depth.—The space from front to rear of any formation, or of a position, including the front and rear elements.

p. Direction of march.—The direction in which the base of the command, whether actually in march or halted, is facing at the instant considered.

q. Dismounted.—The term "dismounted" as applied to a unit indicates that it is employed without vehicles; as applied to personnel it means that the individuals are not mounted on or in vehicles.

r. Distance.—Space between elements in the direction of

depth, measured from the rear of one vehicle or element in front to the front of the next vehicle or element in rear.

s. *Dress*.—See definition for alinement, FM 22-5.

t. *Echelon*.—A formation in which the subdivisions are placed one behind another extending beyond and unmasking one another wholly or in part. In battle formations, the different fractions of a command in the direction of depth, to each of which a principal combat mission is assigned, such as the attacking echelon, support echelon, and reserve echelon. The various subdivisions of a headquarters, such as forward echelon and rear echelon.

u. *Element*.—A subdivision of a command, such as an individual, vehicle, squad (crew), section, or platoon.

v. *Evolution*.—A movement by which a command changes its position or formation.

w. *Extended order*.—Any formation in which the vehicles or elements are separated by intervals or distances, or both, greater than in close order.

x. *Flank*.—The side of a command from the leading to the rearmost element, inclusive. *Right flank* is the right side when facing the enemy and does not change when the command is moving to the rear.

y. *Formation*.—The arrangement of the subdivisions of a command so that all elements are placed in order in any designated disposition.

z. *Front*.—(1) The space occupied by an element measured from one flank to the opposite flank. The front of a man is assumed to be 22 inches.

(2) The direction of the enemy. The line of contact of two opposing forces.

aa. *Interval*.—Interval in mounted units is the lateral space between vehicles, measured from the hub of the wheel or the track. Between troops in formation it is the space from the left flank of the element or unit on the right to the right flank of the element or unit on the left.

ab. *Inverted wedge*.—A formation in which the elements are moved successively and alternately to the left front and right front of the base in such manner that they are unmasked by the succeeding element and with such distances and intervals as to permit the elements to form line to the front without overlapping or undue extension.

ac. Leading.—The acts of a commander in controlling his unit by personal direction.

ad. Line.—A formation in which the elements or units are abreast.

ae. Mass.—The mounted or dismounted formation of a company or larger unit in which the platoons or larger units are in column, abreast, or at close order.

af. Mounted.—The term "mounted" as applied to units indicates that the unit is employed with vehicles; as applied to personnel, it means that the individuals are mounted on or in vehicles.

ag. Park.—An area used for the purpose of servicing, maintaining, and parking vehicles.

ah. Rate of march.—The average speed over a period of time including short periodic halts.

ai. Speed.—The rate of movement of a vehicle or unit measured in miles per hour at a given instant.

aj. Scout car.—A partially armored, wheeled combat vehicle designed primarily for reconnaissance.

ak. Successive formations.—A movement in which the elements take their places successively.

al. Tank.—An armored, turret type, track-laying combat vehicle designed for combat.

am. Unit.—A military force having a prescribed organization.

an. Wedge.—A formation in which the elements are moved successively and alternately to the left rear and right rear of the base in such manner that they are unmasked by the preceding element and with such intervals and distances as to permit the elements to form line to the front without overlapping or undue extension.

■ 3. COMMANDS.—*a.* The commands authorized for dismounted close and extended order drill and the manner of giving them are prescribed in FM 22-5. The commands and signals for certain additional dismounted formations and mounted formations are prescribed in this manual.

b. A command is the direction of the commander either expressed orally and in prescribed phraseology or given by prescribed signals.

c. Where it is not mentioned who gives the prescribed commands, they will be given by the commander of the unit.

d. There are two kinds of commands:

(1) The preparatory command, such as FORWARD, which indicates the movement that is to be executed.

(2) The command of execution, such as MARCH, HALT, or ARMS, which causes the execution.

e. In mounted extended order formations there is generally no command of execution. Certain commands or signals indicate the movement and also cause its execution, such as EXTEND, ASSEMBLE.

f. Preparatory commands are distinguished in this manual by small capitals and those of execution by large capitals.

g. The preparatory command is given at such interval of time before the command of execution as to insure proper understanding and to permit the giving of necessary commands by subordinate leaders; the command of execution is given at the instant the movement is to commence. Changes in formation or direction should normally be completed before ordering other changes.

h. The tone of the command should be animated, distinct, and of a loudness proportionate to the number of men for whom it is intended. Indifference in giving commands must be avoided, as this leads to laxity in execution. Commands must be given with spirit.

i. When giving commands to troops, the commander faces them. When the section or platoon in close order drill or in ceremonies is part of a larger unit, the leader turns his head toward the unit to give commands but does not face the men.

j. Officers and men fix their attention at the first word of command.

k. If all men in the unit are to execute the same movement simultaneously, the subordinate leaders do not repeat a command; otherwise they repeat the command or give the proper new command for the movement of their own unit.

l. If at a halt, the commands for movements involving marching, such as 1. COLUMN RIGHT, 2. MARCH, are not prefaced by the command FORWARD.

m. Preparatory commands may be revoked by commanding AS YOU WERE.

n. In instruction by the numbers, all movements for the purpose of instruction may be divided into motions and

executed in detail. The command of execution determines the prompt execution of the first motion. The other motions, depending on the number, are executed at the commands TWO, THREE, FOUR, etc. To execute the movement in detail the instructor first cautions, "By the numbers." All movements are then executed in detail, one motion for each count until the caution "Without the numbers" is given.

o. Commands may be transmitted by any of the following methods:

- (1) Voice (seldom practicable mounted).
- (2) Audible signals.
 - (a) Whistle.
 - (b) Trumpet.
 - (c) Horn or siren.
- (3) Touch signals.
- (4) Visual signals.
 - (a) Arm and hand.
 - (b) Flags.
 - (c) Lights.
- (5) Example of the leader.
- (6) Radio, voice or key.
- (7) Interphone system.
- (8) Staff officers.
- (9) Messengers, mounted or dismounted.
- (10) Pyrotechnics.
- (11) Any combination of the above methods.

p. Drill and combat signals are for the purpose of transmitting commands when the transmission will be more simple and efficient than would be possible by the use of other means. Signals may be given by any of the methods listed above.

■ 4. SIGNALS.—Mounted drill of armored force units is controlled or directed by means of various types of signals or by radio or arm and hand signals. Any type of signal used must be simple, easily understood, and definite. Dismounted drill simulating mounted drill and conducted by signals should precede mounted drill.

a. Audible signals.—Audible signals are made with the leader's whistle, siren, vehicle horn, or trumpet. Whistle signals are limited to—

(1) *One short blast.*—Attention to orders.

(2) *One long blast.*—Cease firing. This signal will be supplemented by an arm and hand or other type signal.

(3) *Three long blasts.*—To indicate danger or an air or mechanized attack, use three long blasts of a whistle, vehicular horn, siren, or klaxon repeated several times; or three equally spaced shots with rifle or pistol; or three short bursts of fire from machine gun or submachine gun. In daylight, the individual giving the signal points in the direction of the impending danger; at night, the alarm signal will be supplemented by voice warning to indicate the direction of danger.

b. Touch signals.—Touch signals are used by a tank commander to direct the driver. They are given with the foot or hand.

(1) *Move forward.*—Several taps between the shoulder blades.

(2) *Increase speed.*—Repeat “move forward” signal more rapidly. The taps are continued until the desired speed is acquired.

(3) *Decrease speed or halt.*—Steady pressure between the shoulder blades. Pressure is continued until the desired reduced speed is attained or the vehicle is halted.

(4) *Move in reverse.*—Tap repeatedly on the back of the driver’s head (helmet).

(5) *Change direction.*—Press on the driver’s right (left) shoulder to turn right (left). The driver continues turning until pressure ceases.

c. Visual signals.—(1) *Arm and hand signals.*—(a) The arm and hand signals herein prescribed cover the control of vehicles, mounted drill, and mounted combat. Unless otherwise prescribed, they are given normally with the right arm and hand.

(b) Signals must be plainly visible. Where applicable, they may be given either from the vehicle or from the ground.

(c) Whenever a signal for a formation or movement includes a preparatory signal, the formation or movement is executed upon the signal of execution; otherwise as soon as the signal is understood. Preparatory signals are started from the position of the arm at the side. Signals of execu-

tion are started from the position of the arm at the vertical and fully extended, except where specifically provided otherwise. To complete the signal of execution the arm is lowered to the side at the time the execution is desired.

(d) Single signals are preferable to combinations. When a combination of signals is used, the signals should be easily recognized and given in the order in which a command would be worded. For example, the signal for ASSEMBLY IN COLUMN OF PLATOONS should be the signals for ASSEMBLE, COLUMN, and PLATOONS in that order.

(e) To change the formation of subordinate units when extended, it will often be preferable for the leader to move to the base unit and indicate or signal the formation desired; all others conform to the base.

(f) For dismounted close and extended order drill signals, the provisions of FM 22-5 apply.

(2) *Mounted drill and combat signals.*—(a) *Action front (right, left, or rear) or fight on foot.*—Thrust the closed fist rapidly several times in the direction toward which it is desired to go into action. (See fig. 1.)

(b) *Are you ready? or I am ready.*—Extend the arm toward the leader for whom the signal is intended, hand raised, fingers extended and joined, palm toward the leader. (See fig. 1.)

(c) *Assemble (applicable either to vehicles or dismounted personnel).*—Raise the hand vertically upward to the full extent of the arm, palm to the front, fingers extended and joined, then slowly describe with the arm large horizontal circles about the head.

1. To assemble mounted personnel dismounted, this signal must be *preceded* by the signal DISMOUNT.
2. To assemble commanders, give this signal and follow by holding up one, two, three, or four fingers to indicate commanders in order of rank, respectively. A signal indicating juniors will include all superior commanders. (See fig. 1.)

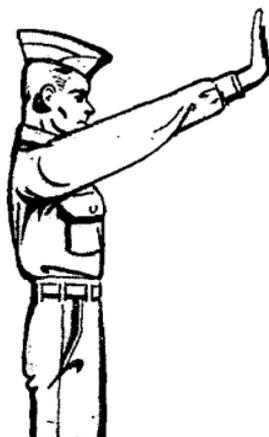
(d) *Attention.*—Extend the arm vertically to the full extent of the arm, palm to the front, and move the arm and hand slowly back and forth several times, from right to left and from left to right, in a vertical plane. (See fig. 1.)

(e) *To close formation or bring up vehicles.*—Extend the

arms horizontally sideward, palms of hands up, and swing them upward to the vertical position overhead until palms meet. Repeat several times. (See fig. 2.)



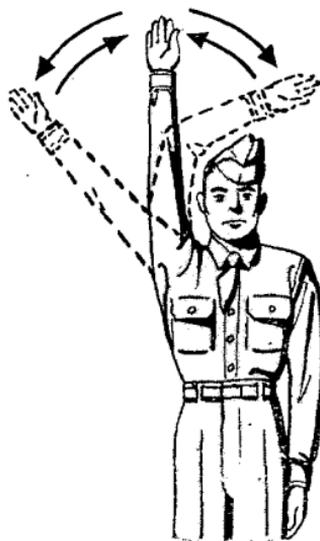
**ACTION FRONT (RIGHT, LEFT
OR REAR) OR FIGHT ON FOOT**



**ARE YOU READY
OR I AM READY**



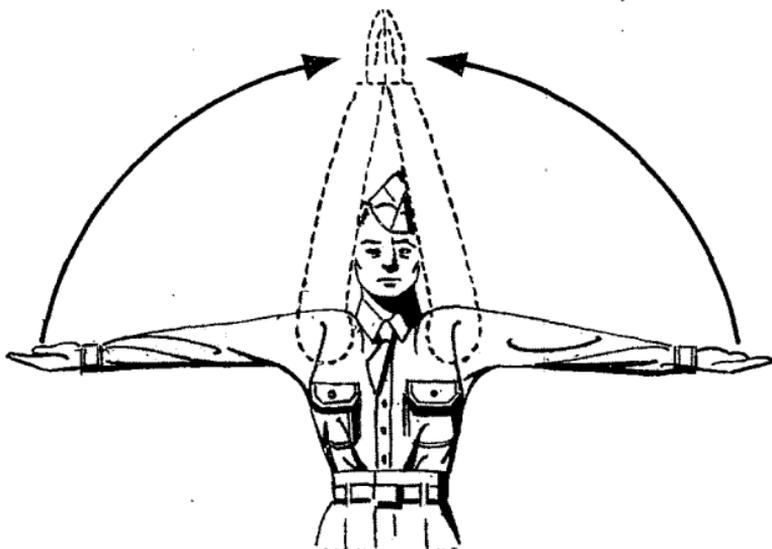
ASSEMBLE



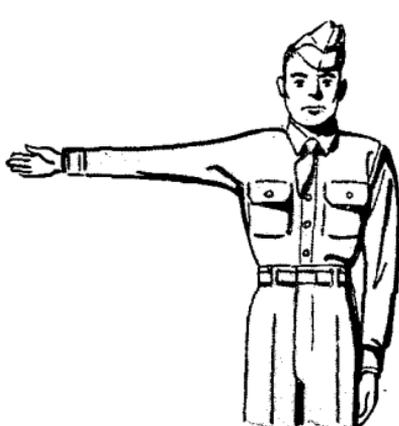
ATTENTION

FIGURE 1.—Arm and hand signals.

(f) *By the right (left) flank (preparatory).*—Extend the arm to the full extent horizontally directly to the right (left). (See fig. 2.)



TO CLOSE FORMATION OR
BRING UP VEHICLES



BY THE RIGHT (LEFT) FLANK



CHANGE DIRECTION

FIGURE 2.—Arm and hand signals.

(g) *Change direction (preparatory)*.—Carry the hand that is on the side toward the new direction across the body to the opposite shoulder, and with the palm down and the forearm horizontal, swing the forearm in a horizontal plane, extending the arm and hand to point in the new direction. (See fig. 2.)

(h) *Column (preparatory)*.—Raise the arm vertically, then drop the arm to the rear and describe circles in a vertical plane with the arm fully extended. (See fig. 3.)

(i) *Companies (preparatory)*.—Place the palm of the hand against the back of the neck. (See fig. 3.)

(j) *Decrease speed*.—Extend the arm horizontally from the shoulder, palm to the front, and swing the arm up and down several times. (See fig. 3.)

(k) *Diamond formation*.—Extend both arms horizontally in a position midway between the side and front of the body. (See fig. 4.)

(l) *Dismount (preparatory)*.—Extend the arm diagonally upward to the side, palm of the hand down, and wave the arm downward several times. (See fig. 4.)

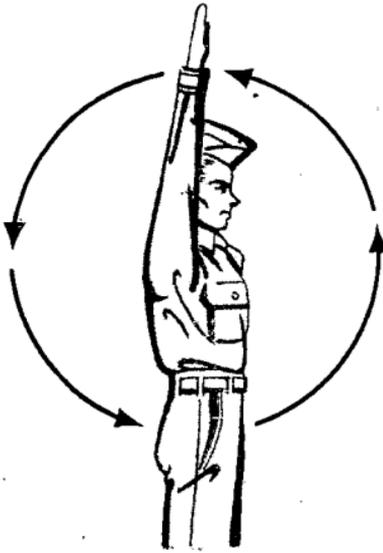
(m) *Disperse*.—Raise the right hand to the shoulder, palm to the front, fingers extended and joined, and thrust the open palm vigorously several times to the left, front, right, and rear. (See fig. 5.)

(n) *Disregard*.—Place the hand against the back at the height of the waist, back of the hand toward the body. (See fig. 3.)

(o) *Drivers to turn around simultaneously*.—Extend both arms horizontally toward the drivers and describe small vertical circles, then signal forward in the desired new direction. When the distance between vehicles permits and the convoy is long, this signal may be given by a motorcycle messenger passing back along the column. (See fig. 5.)

(p) *Echelon right (left) (preparatory)*.—Extend the right (left) arm upward to the side at an angle of 45° above the horizontal. (See fig. 5.)

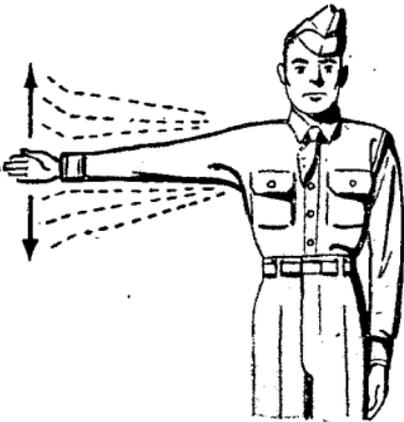
(q) *Extend*.—Extend the arms vertically overhead, palms together, and swing them sideward to the horizontal position. Repeat several times. If in a formation possessing width and depth, extension is made in both directions. (See fig. 6.)



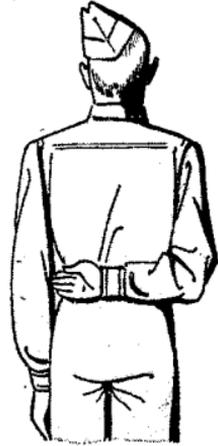
COLUMN



COMPANIES



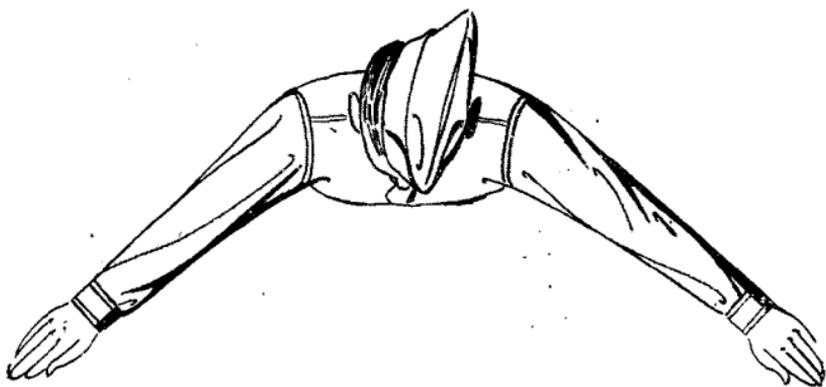
DECREASE SPEED



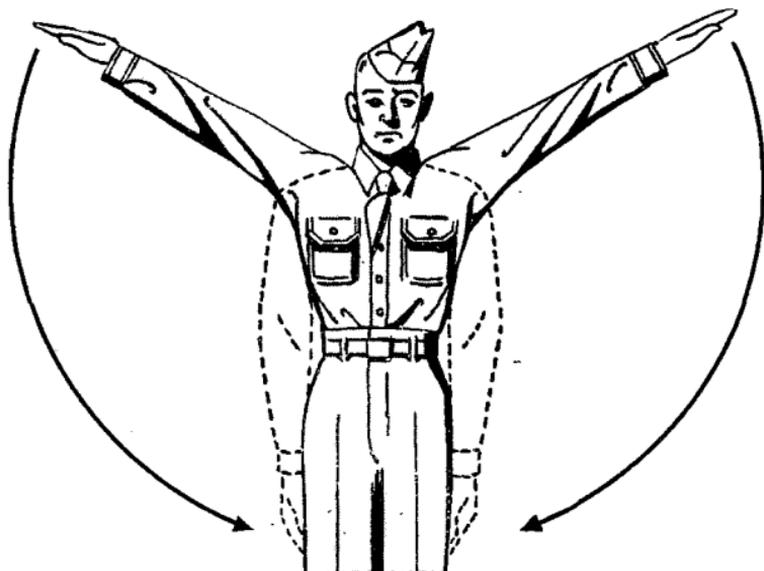
DISREGARD

FIGURE 3.—Arm and hand signals.

(r) *Forward (preparatory) or follow me.*—Raise the hand vertically to the full extent of the arm, palm to the front,



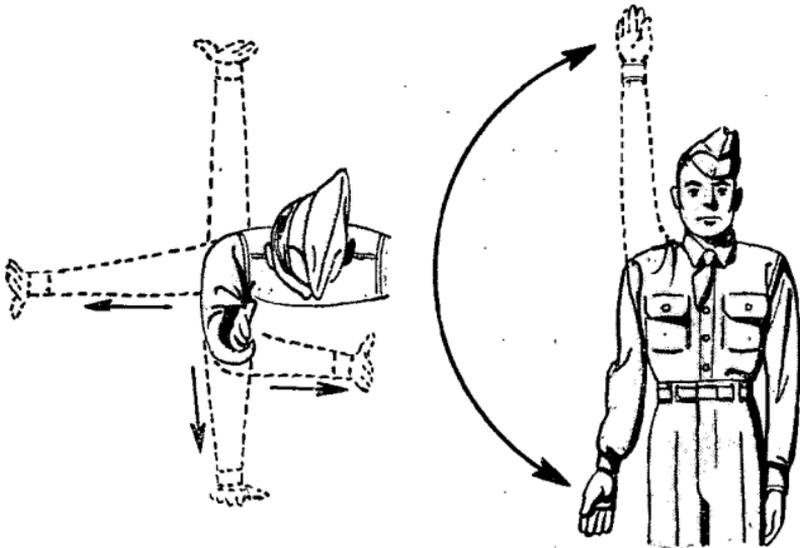
DIAMOND FORMATION



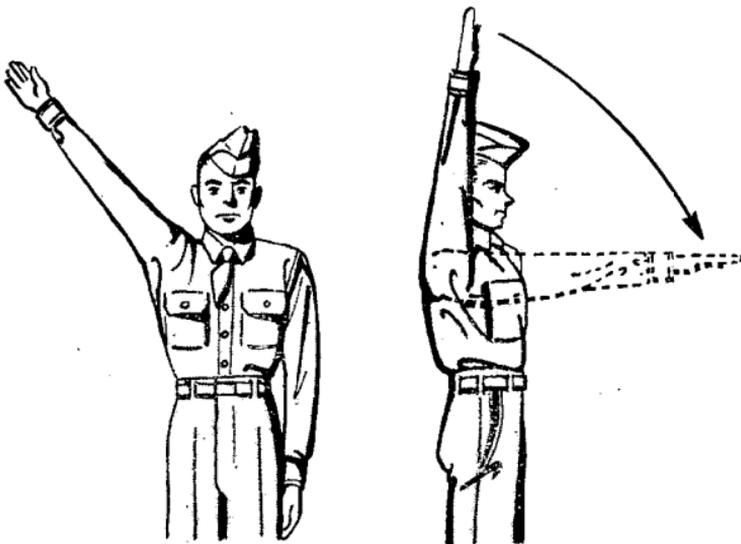
DISMOUNT (PREPARE TO DISMOUNT, USE RIGHT ARM ONLY)

FIGURE 4.—Arm and hand signals.

and lower the hand and arm in the direction of movement until horizontal. (See fig. 5.)



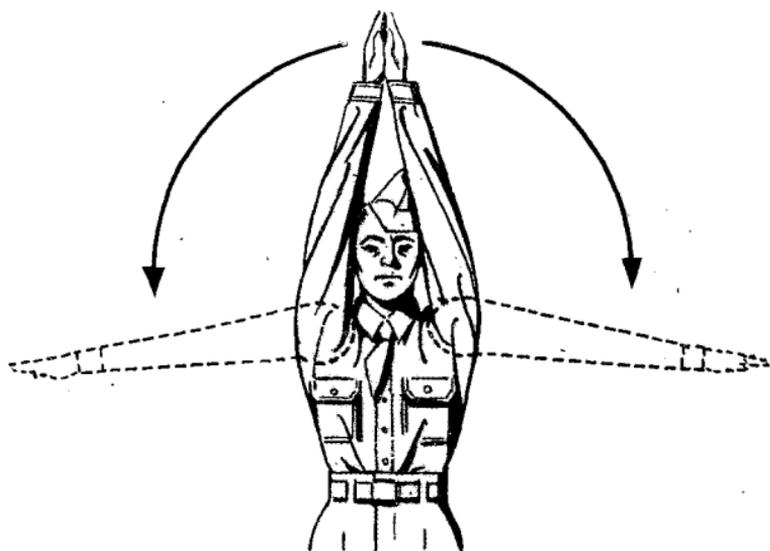
DISPERSE

DRIVERS TO TURN
AROUND SIMULTANEOUSLY

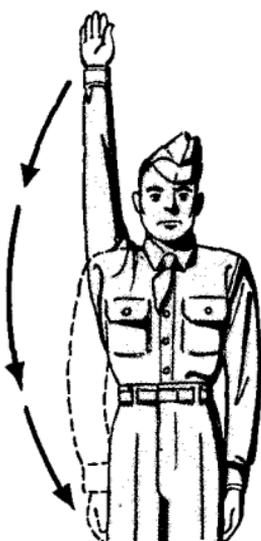
ECHELON RIGHT (LEFT)

FORWARD OR FOLLOW ME

FIGURE 5.—Arm and hand signals.



EXTEND



HALT



INCREASE SPEED

FIGURE 6.—Arm and hand signals.

(s) *Halt (preparatory)*.—Raise the hand vertically to the full extent of the arm, palm to the front. For execution, drop the arm to the side. (See fig. 6.)

(t) *Increase speed*.—Carry the hand to the shoulder, fist closed. Rapidly thrust the fist upward vertically to the full extent of the arm and back several times. (See fig. 6.)

(u) *Inverted wedge*.—Extend both arms upward and to the side at an angle of 45° above the horizontal. (See fig. 7.)

(v) *Line (preparatory)*.—Raise the hand vertically to the full extent of the arm, fingers extended and joined, and wave the arm well down alternately to the right and left several times. (See fig. 7.)

(w) *March*.—Raise the hand vertically to the full extent of the arm, palm to the front, fingers extended and joined; make a very brief pause in this position and drop the arm smartly to the side. (See fig. 7.)

(x) *Mass (preparatory)*.—Extend the arm horizontally, palm up, fingers extended and joined, and, by flexing the elbow, bring the tips of the fingers to the point of the shoulder several times. (See fig. 8.)

(y) *Mount (preparatory)*.—Extend the arm horizontally to the side, palm up, and wave the arm upward several times. (See fig. 8.)

(z) *Platoons (preparatory)*.—Raise the elbow to the height of the shoulder, fist closed, forearm vertical. (See fig. 8.)

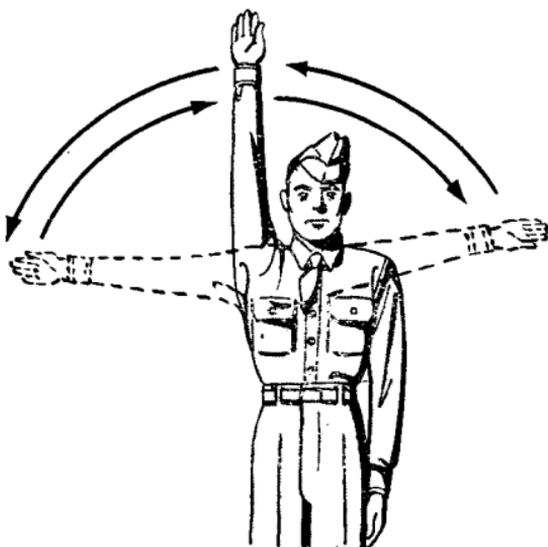
(aa) *Rally*.—Raise the hand vertically to the full extent of the arm, palm open, fingers extended and joined. Then rapidly describe with the arm large horizontal circles about the head. (See fig. 9.)

(ab) *Sections (preparatory)*.—Raise the arm and hand vertically to the full extent of the arm, fist closed. (See fig. 9.)

(ac) *Squads (crews) (vehicles) (preparatory)*.—Raise the arm and hand vertically, palm to the inside, fingers extended and joined, to the full extent of the arm, and distinctly move the hand to the right and left several times from the wrist, holding the arm steady. (See fig. 9.)

(ad) *To the rear (preparatory)*.—Turn and point to the rear, arm horizontal. (See fig. 9.)

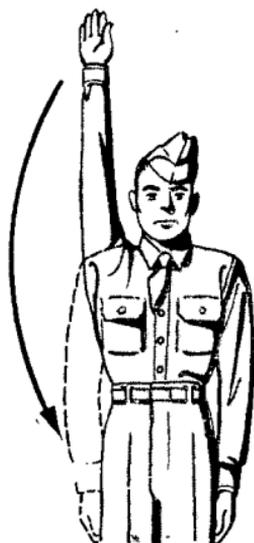
(ae) *Wedge (preparatory)*.—Raise both arms, hands clasped over head. (See fig. 10.)



LINE

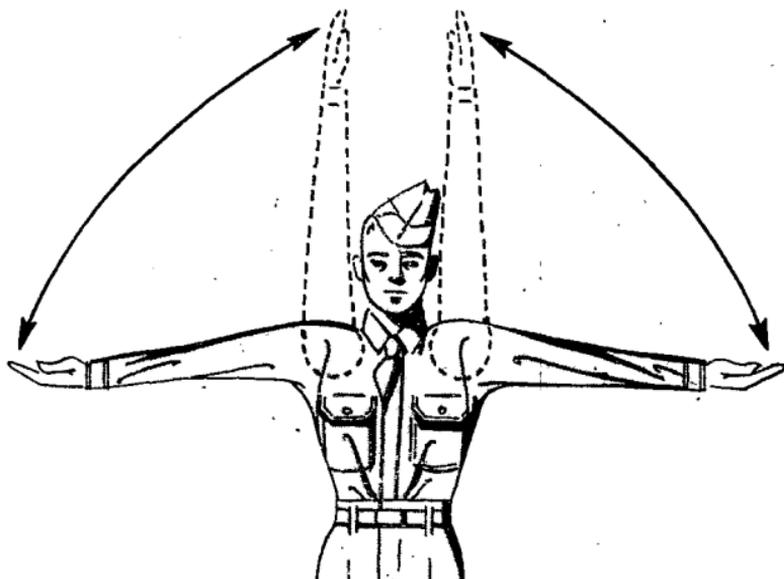


INVERTED WEDGE

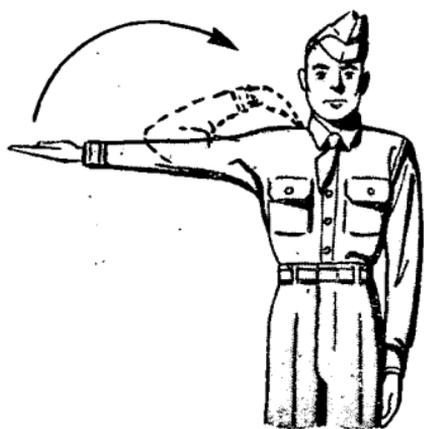


MARCH

FIGURE 7.—Arm and hand signals.



MOUNT, (PREPARE TO MOUNT, USE RIGHT ARM ONLY)



MASS



PLATOONS

FIGURE 8.—Arm and hand signals.



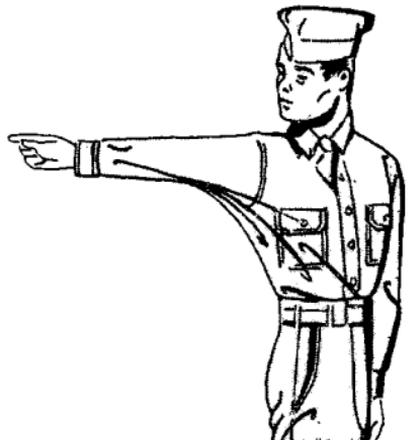
RALLY



SECTIONS



SQUAD (CREWS) (VEHICLES)



TO THE REAR

FIGURE 9.—Arm and hand signals.



WEDGE



CEASE FIRING



COMMENCE FIRING



ELEVATE, DEPRESS

FIGURE 10.—Arm and hand signals.

(3) *Fire control signals.*—See also FM 22-5, 23-50, 23-65, and 23-80.

(a) *Cease firing.*—Raise the forearm in front of the forehead, palm to the front, and swing it up and down several times in front of the face. (See fig. 10.)

(b) *Commence firing.*—Extend the arm and hand horizontally in front of the body to their full extent, palm of the hand down, and move the arm several times through a wide horizontal arc. (See fig. 10.)

(c) *Elevate, depress.*—Extend one arm toward the gunner(s) concerned; move the hand in short upward (downward) movements by flexing the hand at the wrist; with the palm of the hand toward the gunner(s), expose one finger for each mil the gun is to be elevated (depressed). (See fig. 10.)

(d) *Fire faster.*—Execute rapidly the signal COMMENCE FIRING. (See fig. 11.)

(e) *Fire slower.*—Execute slowly the signal COMMENCE FIRING. (See fig. 11.)

(f) *Out of action.*—Strike the closed fist of one hand rapidly against the open palm of the other several times. (See fig. 11.)

(g) *Prepare for action.*—Simulate loading a machine gun as though working the bolt. (See fig. 11.)

(h) *Shift right (left).*—Extend one arm toward the gunner(s) concerned; swing the hand and arm horizontally in the direction in which the fire is to be shifted, palm turned in that direction; with the palm of the hand toward the gunner(s), expose one finger for each mil the fire is to be shifted. (See fig. 12.)

(i) *Range or change elevation.*—Extend the arm fully toward the leader or men for whom the signal is intended, with the fist closed. This is the signal for battle sight. Open the fist, exposing one finger for each 100 yards of range. Change elevation by indicating the complete new range. (See fig. 12.)

(4) *Additional signals for motor vehicles.*—The following signals, except (d), (f), and (g), are usually given from the ground facing the vehicle and are for short movements only:

(a) *Close up or caution.*—Use for gaging distance in con-

lined spaces. Extend the hands forward, with palms separated to indicate clearance; bring palms toward each other

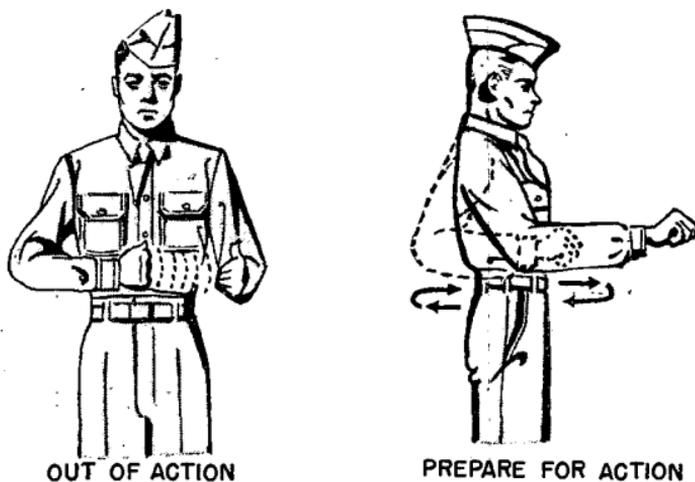
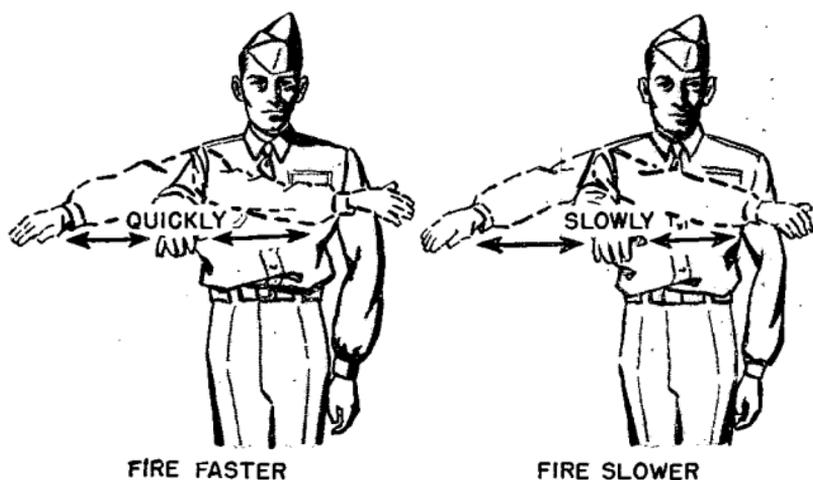


FIGURE 11.—Arm and hand signals.

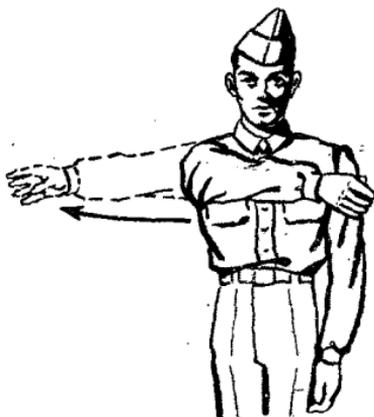
until they meet at the instant it is desired to stop the vehicle. (See fig. 12.)

(b) *Change direction.*—Execute short outward thrusts of

the fist in the direction desired. The driver continues to turn the vehicle until the thrust ceases. (See fig. 12.)



RANGE OR CHANGE ELEVATION



SHIFT RIGHT (LEFT)



CLOSE UP OR CAUTION



CHANGE DIRECTION

FIGURE 12.—Arm and hand signals.

(c) *Move ahead.*—Beckon to driver with hand. (See fig. 13.)

(d) *Move in—gear or speed.*—Hold up number of fingers indicating desired gear or speed. (See fig. 13.)

(e) *Move in reverse.*—Extend arm and hand, palm toward driver, and make pushing motion. Repeat several times until vehicle has moved to desired position. (See fig. 13.)

(f) *Start engine.*—Simulate cranking engine. (See fig. 13.)

(g) *Stop engine.*—Cross forearms in front of head. Repeat until understood. (See fig. 14.)

(5) *Driver's arm signals.*—The normally accepted traffic signals listed below will be used by drivers. They should be clearly made and should be given in time to afford ample warning to other drivers.

(a) *Close up.*—Extend the arm horizontally to the side, palm to the front, then describe a 2-foot vertical circle. Each driver repeats. (See fig. 14.)

(b) *Open up.*—Extend the arm horizontally to the side, palm to the front; then move the arm down to a vertical position and up to the horizontal, describing a 90° arc. Each driver repeats. (See fig. 14.)

(c) *Pass and keep going.*—Extend the left hand horizontally and describe small circles toward the front with the hand. (See fig. 15.)

(d) *Slow or stop.*—Extend the left arm out and down to an angle of 45° below the horizontal. (See fig. 15.)

(e) *Turn left.*—Extend the left arm outward horizontally. (See fig. 15.)

(f) *Turn right.*—Extend the left arm out and up at an angle of 45° above horizontal. (See fig. 15.)

d. *Flag signals.*—(1) Flag signals are used for control and transmission of commands. Their use is limited to important signals where a positive visual method is desired. They should be supplemented when practicable by other means such as the radio and arm and hand signals.

(2) Each combat vehicle is equipped with three solid color flags—orange, red, and green.

(3) Flags are displayed vertically over head; in tanks, through the top of the turret.

(4) They may be either held stationary or waved to attract attention.

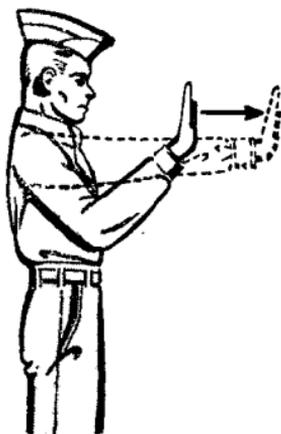
(5) All signals are executed as soon as they are understood.



MOVE AHEAD



MOVE IN - GEAR OR SPEED



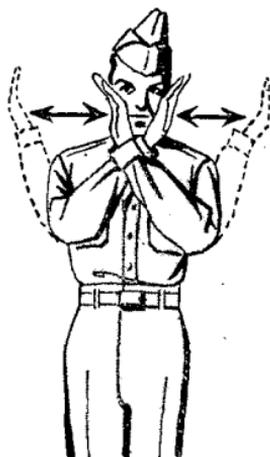
MOVE IN REVERSE



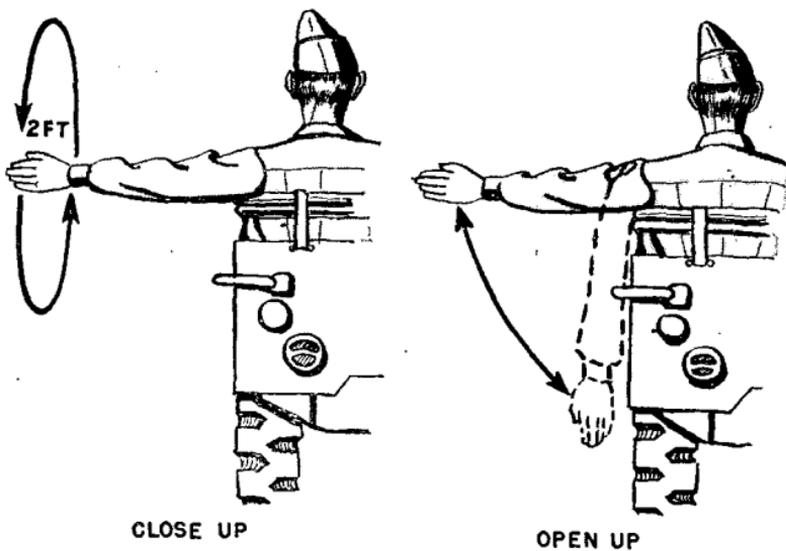
START ENGINE

FIGURE 13.—Arm and hand signals.

- (6) Subordinate leaders repeat signals.
 (7) The following code will be used:
 (a) *Enemy in sight.*—Red.



STOP ENGINES



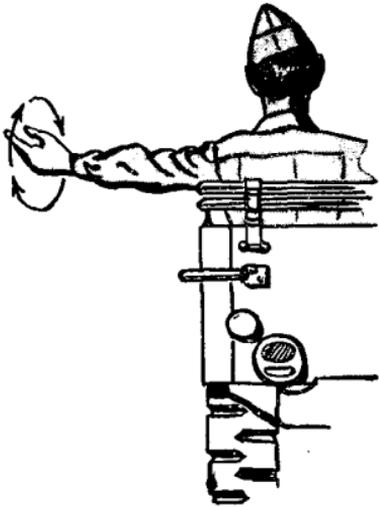
CLOSE UP

OPEN UP

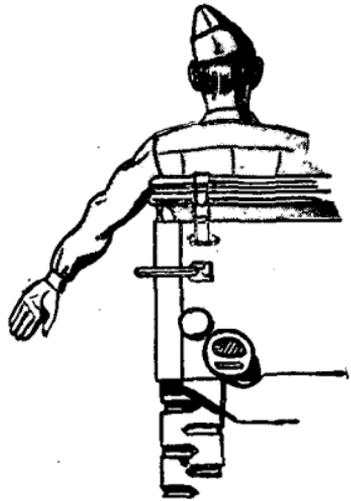
FIGURE 14.—Arm and hand signals.

- (b) *All clear, ready, or understood.*—Green.
 (c) *Disregard or vehicle out of action.*—Orange.

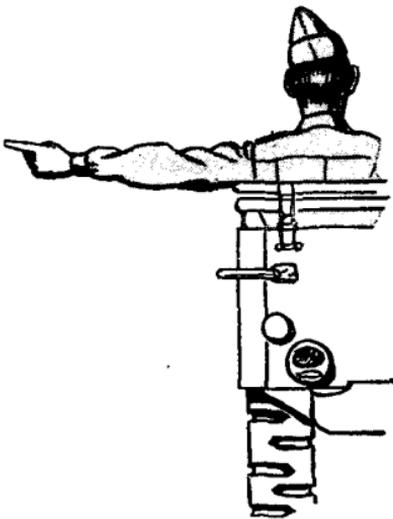
ARMORED FORCE DRILL



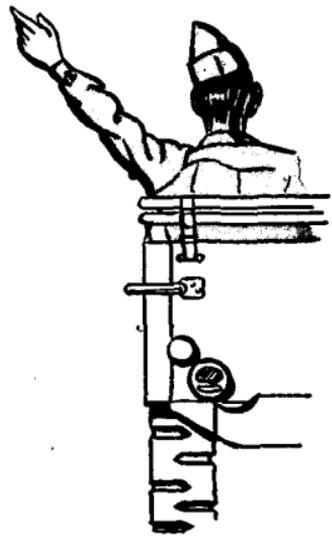
PASS AND KEEP GOING



SLOW OR STOP



TURN LEFT



TURN RIGHT

FIGURE 15.—Arm and hand signals.

- (d) *Assemble or close*.—Orange and green.
- (e) *Extend*.—Red and orange.
- (f) *Disperse*.—Red and green.
- (g) *Gas*.—Red, orange, and green.
- (8) Additional flag signals may be improvised.

e. *Light signals*.—(1) For night traffic control lights, see FM 29-5.

(2) In giving signals described below, face toward those who are to receive the signal. Hold and move the light horizontally. Do *not* point it upward. When giving light signals under blackout conditions, use a light the lens of which has been covered with suitable colored material. Subordinate leaders repeat signals and pass them along the column.

(3) The following light signals are prescribed for general traffic control:

(a) *Right or left turn*.—Rotate the light in a vertical plane, describing circles about 12 to 18 inches in diameter so that the light, at the top of the circle, travels in the direction of the desired turn. (See FM 29-5.)

(b) *Start engine*.—Rotate light, describing circles to simulate cranking.

(c) *Stop, or stop engine*.—Move light back and forth horizontally and repeat as necessary.

(d) *Forward, move out, go, or increase speed*.—Move the light up and down in a vertical line, repeating as necessary.

(4) The following signals are prescribed when a dismounted man signals to maneuver individual vehicles:

(a) *Move forward, stop, turn, and start or stop engine*.—Same as prescribed in (3) above.

(b) *Move in reverse*.—Steady light held still and pointed toward the driver.

NOTE.—After the movement of a vehicle has started, when the driver cannot see the light, he must stop his vehicle.

f. *Other agencies*.—(1) *Radio*.—Brief, simple commands or prearranged code is transmitted by voice or key.

(2) *Interphone system*.—Voice commands to the driver or other members of the crew are given by the vehicle commander in those vehicles provided with the interphone system.

(3) *Staff officers.*—Staff officers may be used to transmit commands when other means break down or are impracticable, particularly when an explanation of the situation is necessary.

(4) *Messengers, mounted or dismounted.*—Messengers are used when they are faster than any other method; when other methods have broken down or are impracticable; to clarify commands; and to supplement important commands to assure their receipt and understanding.

(5) *Pyrotechnics.*—The use of pyrotechnics is limited to a simple, prearranged code. They are frequently prescribed for use as signals for launching an attack, for lifting artillery fire, for identification of friendly aircraft, or for similar immediate actions.

SECTION II

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION FOR OCCUPANTS OF VEHICLES

■ 5. GENERAL RULES.—*a.* The occupants of military motor vehicles are considered in formation and do not leave the vehicle without proper authority.

b. No occupant may occupy any part of the vehicle in such a manner as to obstruct the view of the driver.

c. Occupants keep wholly inside the vehicle unless specifically directed otherwise.

d. No vehicle will be moved until all occupants are inside the vehicle.

e. In passenger cars all doors are kept closed.

f. In combat vehicles occupants will not unduly expose themselves during assumed combat conditions.

g. On trucks, tail gates will be kept closed while vehicles are in motion.

■ 6. POSITIONS.—Occupants in combat vehicles may be seated or standing at attention, or in one of the rest positions as follows:

a. Attention.—(1) The position of attention assumed by occupants, except the driver, seated in motor vehicles is an alert position, with back erect, chest lifted, shoulders squared, head up, eyes straight in the direction the occupant is facing, and arms falling naturally at the side. In ceremonies

they fold the arms, right arm uppermost, elbows raised to a horizontal position, while passing the reviewing stand.

(2) The driver's position is the same as prescribed for seated occupants, except on wheeled vehicles the hands should rest on opposite sides of the steering wheel, on a horizontal line, generally through the center of the wheel, grasping the steering wheel firmly but without stiffness. On tanks the hands grasp the steering levers at the grips, levers vertical at the halt, otherwise as required for driving. Both feet should be flat on the floor, except when actually manipulating the foot controls.

(3) Personnel who normally stand in the vehicle, that is, tank commanders or others, assume the same position of attention as seated personnel, except they may support themselves as needed to maintain their balance.

(4) Silence is maintained.

b. Rests.—The commands are: AT EASE; REST; ROUTE ORDER.

(1) At the command AT EASE, occupants of motor vehicles may assume a relaxed posture but do not leave their positions in the vehicle. Silence is maintained.

(2) At the command REST, positions are maintained, comfortable postures may be assumed, and occupants may talk.

(3) ROUTE ORDER is the habitual march order. On long marches and in the zone of combat, where every opportunity for sleep or rest must be taken, occupants of motor vehicles not specifically on duty may dispose themselves so as to secure the most comfort and rest. Occupants may smoke only at the ROUTE ORDER, except that in tanks or in vehicles carrying extra gasoline, smoking is prohibited at all times.

CHAPTER 2

MOUNTED DRILL

■ 7. PURPOSE AND SCOPE.—*a.* The primary purpose of mounted drill in armored force units is to facilitate control in combat.

b. Drills prescribed herein are battle formations at decreased intervals. They are adaptable to any type of armored force unit. Interpretation should be based on these general provisions and all should learn to use this manual as a guide to a simple solution of minor points which are not specifically covered in the text. Much discussion over trifles or failure to make appropriate adaptations indicates a failure to grasp the spirit of the regulations. Higher commanders should encourage subordinates to use their initiative and to make minor adjustments without calling on higher authority for interpretation.

■ 8. THE LEADER.—*a.* The commander of each unit is the leader. In general, during drill, he is in front of the base element, except as otherwise shown in the figures in this manual. From this position he normally leads the unit in the direction and at the speed desired. He may, however, move his vehicle where he can best observe and supervise his unit, leaving the guidance to a subordinate.

b. Subordinate commanders may vary the formation and speed of their units because of terrain and other conditions, but resume the original formation of the base as soon as practicable.

■ 9. BASE.—*a.* In all formations except line, wedge, and inverted wedge the base is the leading element.

b. In line, wedge, and inverted wedge formations the base is normally the center or right center element.

c. Any element may be designated as the base.

d. The base element follows its leader or conforms to his movement unless otherwise ordered. All other elements regulate and guide on the base.

e. When executing changes in formations, base elements move so as to prevent countermarching by other elements.

■ 10. INTERVALS AND DISTANCES.—*a.* In close order mounted drill, intervals and distances are normally 25 yards. They may be varied to meet local conditions of terrain.

b. In extended order drill, intervals and distances are variable, usually 50 to 100 yards.

c. For mass formations see paragraph 14*f*.

d. For march formations see appropriate Field Manual for the unit concerned.

e. Increase or decrease of intervals or distances may be obtained at any time by the command or signal EXTEND or CLOSE.

f. Upon halting, intervals or distances are maintained unless preceded by the command or signal CLOSE. If in extended order formation, intervals and distances are decreased to those prescribed for close order drill; if in close order formation, they are decreased to 5 yards. When closed to 5 yards, no evolutions of drill are executed; close order intervals and distances are taken upon moving out unless otherwise prescribed.

■ 11. SPEED.—*a.* In close and extended order drill, the leader and base elements move at a uniform rate of speed, usually not more than 15 miles an hour.

b. Other elements, when necessary, vary their speed gradually during movements to conform with the base or to complete movements.

 BATTALION COMMANDER

 COMPANY COMMANDER

 PLATOON LEADER

 SECTION LEADER

 TANK

FIGURE 16.—Identifying symbols used in figures 17 to 35, inclusive.

■ 12. CHANGES IN DIRECTION.—*a.* In changing the direction of a unit the leader conducts the base element in the new direction on the arc of a circle so that the pivot is able to turn on the minimum radius.

b. If the unit is in a column formation, elements in rear of the base change direction successively in the same manner and on the same ground as the base.

c. If the unit is in any formation except column, other elements regulate on the base and maintain their relative positions.

d. Changes in direction are made on a radius of not less than 15 yards.

■ 13. METHODS OF ASSUMING FORMATIONS.—*a. Line or wedge.*—

(1) These formations are gained from any column formation by a fan-shaped deployment toward either side of the base. Except in the section the next subordinate element within a unit in rear of the base moves to the left of the base and the third to the right of the base and so on alternately. These elements move by the most direct route without change of formation until they arrive near their new positions when they form line or wedge if not already in that formation. When line or wedge is to be formed in any other direction than the direction of march, the head of the column should be turned in the new direction before the deployment is ordered.

(2) In the first section the rear vehicle of the base section moves to the right; in the second section the rear vehicle moves to the left. (See fig. 17.)

b. Column.—(1) Column formations are formed from any line or wedge formation by successive movements of the next subordinate elements within a unit to their positions in rear of the base. Except in the section, the base is followed alternately by the next subordinate element on its left and right. These elements initiate their movement by changing their formations, if required, and moving by the most direct route to their new positions.

(2) In the section the section leader is followed by the other vehicles in its section.

c. Echelon, right (left).—(1) This formation is gained from any column formation by the next subordinate elements

within a unit in rear of the base placing themselves progressively to the right (left) rear of the base. (See fig. 25.)

(2) From any line or wedge formation, echelon is gained by next subordinate elements within a unit placing them-

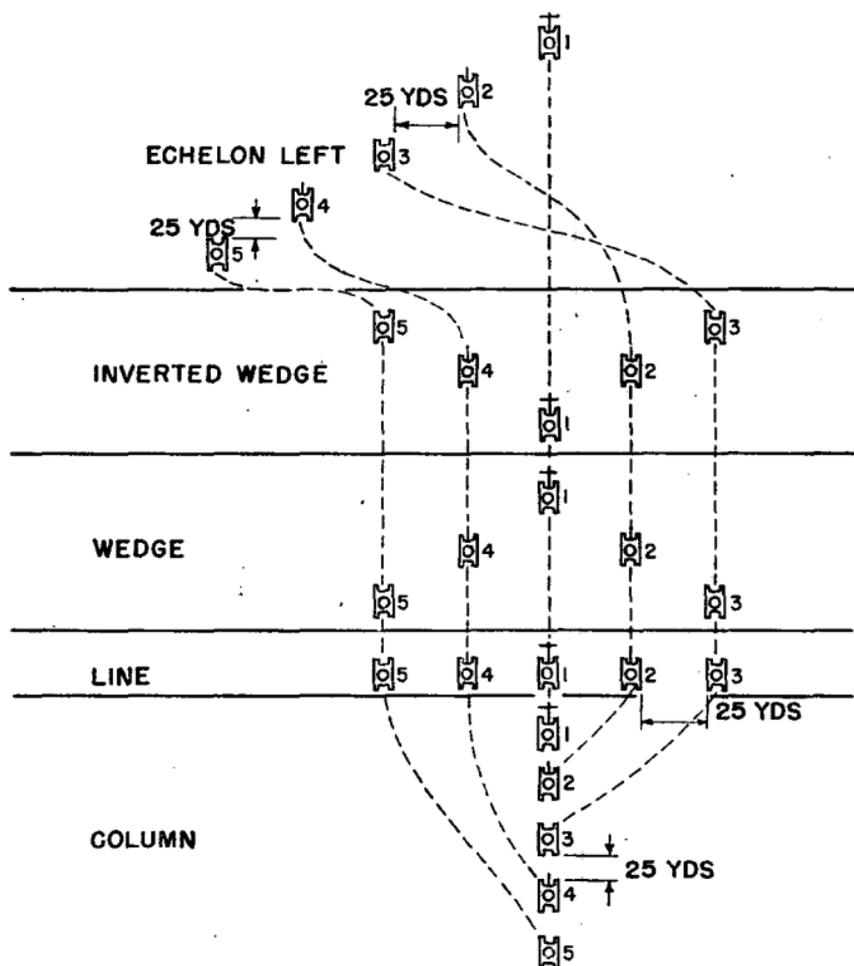


FIGURE 17.—Platoon formations (5 vehicles).

selves progressively to the right (left) rear of the base, the base being the left (right) subordinate element. This does not apply within the platoon. (See figs. 25 and 29.)

(3) Within the platoon the vehicles form in echelon in the same order as for column, moving to their positions by the most direct route. (See fig. 17.)

d. Platoons of less than five vehicles.—(1) Platoons of less than five vehicles form line, column, echelon, and wedge formation in accordance with the same principles as the platoon of five, except as shown in figures 18 and 19.

(2) When one section is incomplete, the platoon leader,

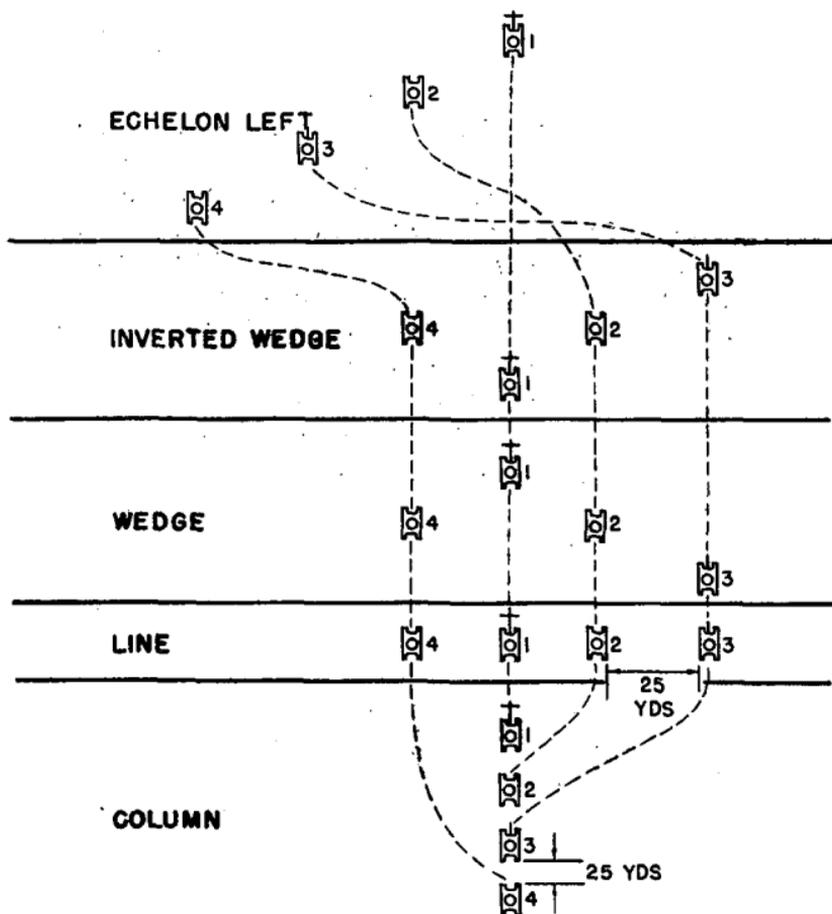


FIGURE 18.—Platoon formations (4 vehicles).

remaining in his normal position, forms a section with the odd vehicle. (See fig. 18.)

(3) When each section has been reduced to a single vehicle, the vehicles combine to form one section. (See fig. 19.)

■ 14. AUTHORIZED FORMATIONS AND COMMANDS FOR ARMORED UNITS.—The following formations and preparatory commands for same are authorized for use where applicable:

a. (1) *Line*.—All squads (vehicles) abreast of each other except the vehicles of higher commanders. (See figs. 17 and 20.)

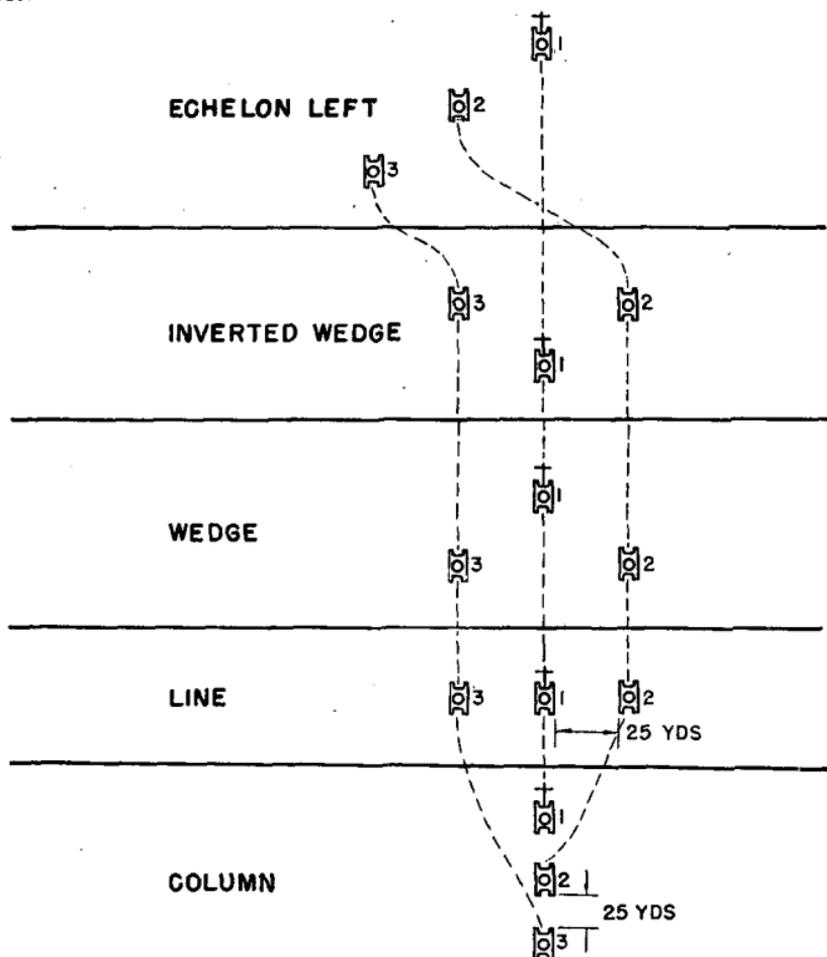


FIGURE 19.—Platoon formations (3 vehicles).

(2) *Line of sections (platoons) (companies)*.—All sections (platoons) (companies) in column and abreast. (See figs. 21, 22, and 23.)

(3) *Line of wedges*.—All companies in wedge formation and abreast.

(4) *Line of platoons (companies) in wedge.*—All platoons (companies) in platoon wedge formation and abreast. (See fig. 27.)

(5) *Line of companies, in column of sections (platoons) (platoons in wedge).*—All companies abreast and each in

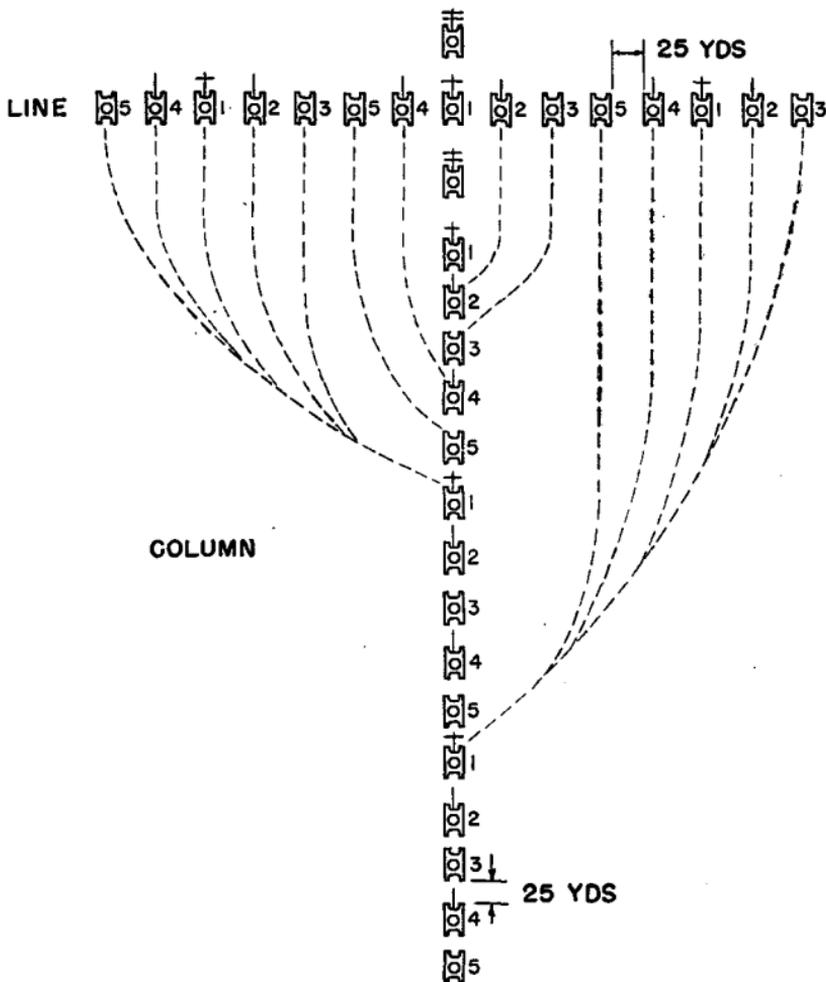


FIGURE 20.—Company from column to line.

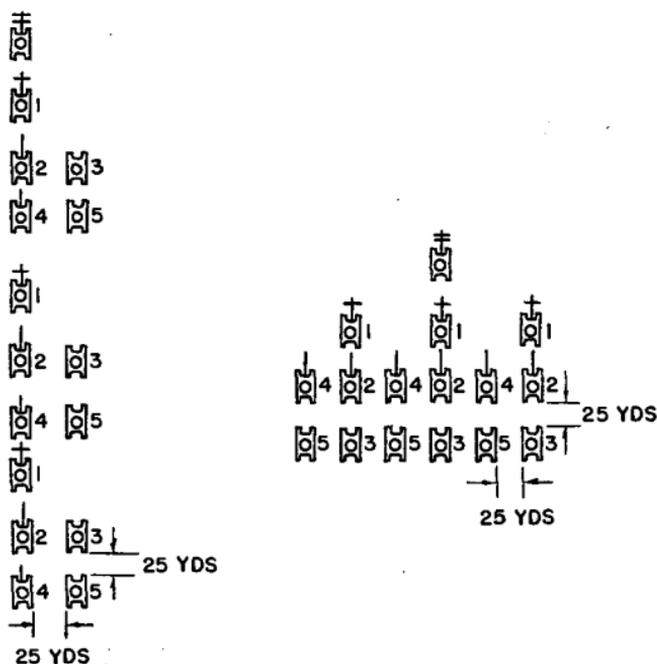
column of sections (platoons) (platoons in wedge). (See fig. 24.)

b. (1) *Column.*—Each vehicle placed one behind another. (See figs. 17 and 20.)

(2) *Column of sections (platoons) (companies).*—Each section (platoon) (company) in line and placed one behind another. (See figs. 21, 25, and 26.)

(3) *Column of wedges.*—Each company in wedge formation and placed one behind another.

(4) *Column of platoons (companies) in wedge.*—Each platoon (company) in platoon wedge formation and placed one behind another. (See fig. 24.)



① COMPANY IN COLUMN OF SECTIONS.

② COMPANY IN LINE OF SECTIONS.

FIGURE 21.

(5) *Column of companies, in line of sections (platoons) (platoons in wedge).*—Each company placed one behind another and each in line of sections (platoons) (platoons in wedge). (See fig. 27.)

c. (1) *Echelon, right (left).*—Each platoon (company) displaced progressively to the right (left) rear of the base in the company (battalion) without change of formation

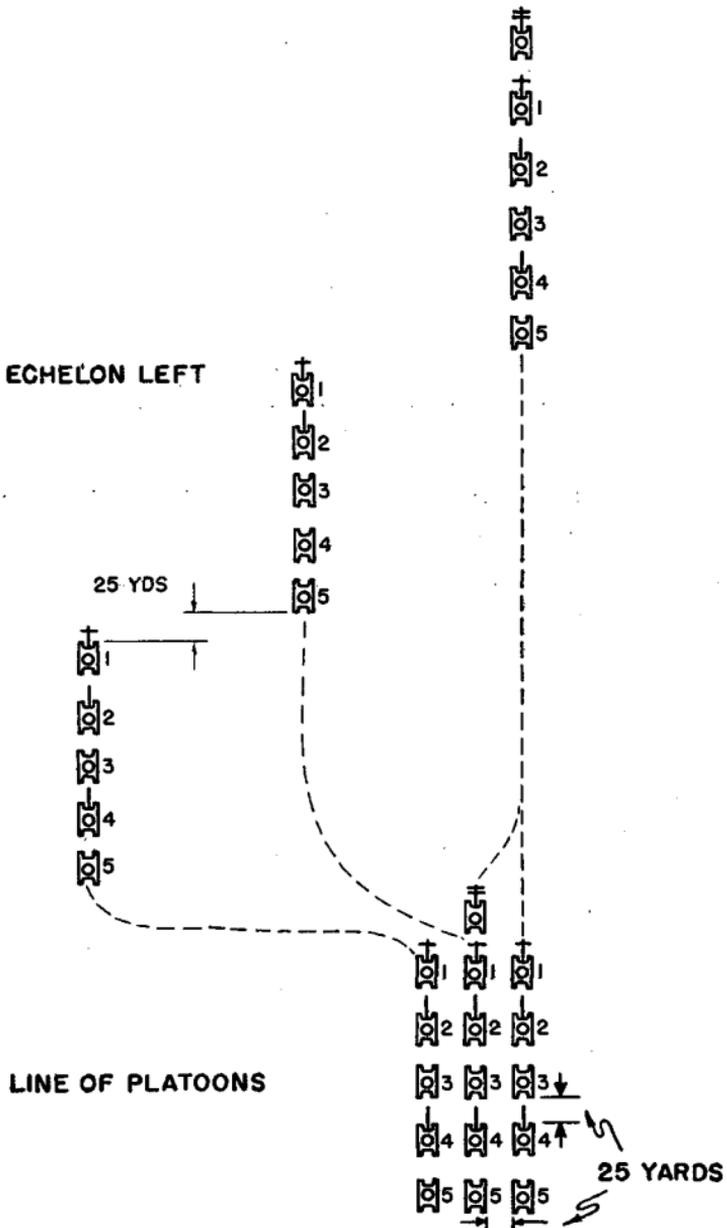


FIGURE 22.—Company from line of platoons to echelon left.

within the platoon (company). (See figs. 22, 25, and '28.)

(2) *Platoon, echelon, right (left)*.—Each vehicle displaced progressively to the right (left) rear of the base in the platoon (company). (See figs. 17 and 30.)

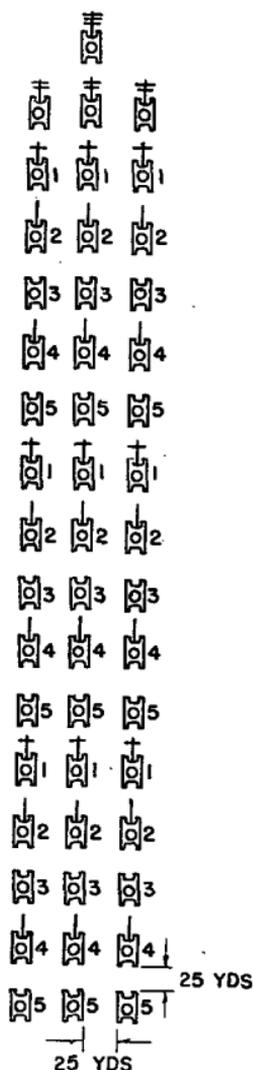


FIGURE 23.—Line of companies.

d. (1) Wedge.—Each platoon (company) displaced progressively to the left and right rear of the base in the com-

pany (battalion) without change of formation within the platoon (company). (See figs. 36 and 38.)

(2) *Platoon wedge*.—Each squad (vehicle) displaced progressively to the left and right rear of the base in the platoon (company). In assuming this formation in the company of three platoons the base platoon forms platoon wedge; the second platoon forms echelon left; and the third platoon forms echelon right. (See figs. 17, 28, and 32.)

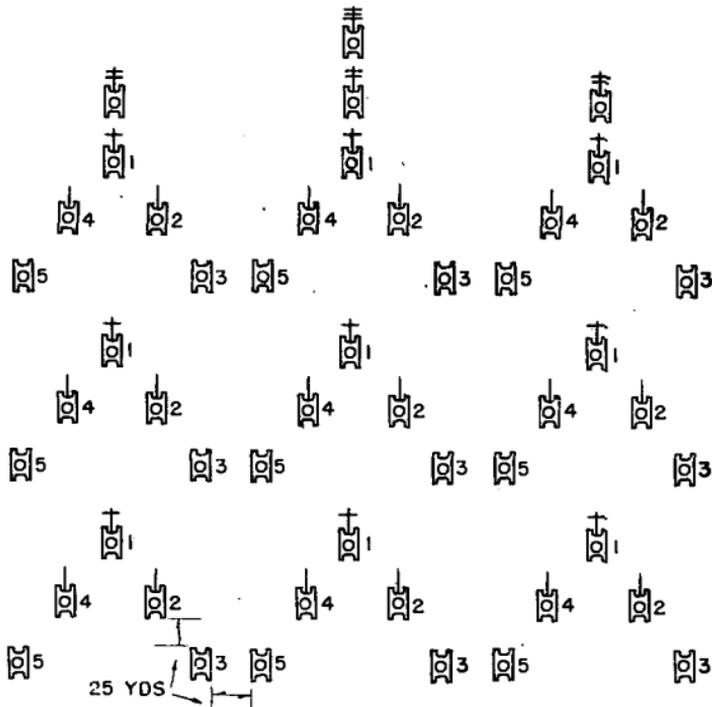


FIGURE 24.—Line of companies in column of platoons in wedge.

e. (1) *Inverted wedge*.—Each platoon (company) displaced progressively forward to the left and right front of the base in the company (battalion) without change of formation within the platoon (company). (See fig. 33.)

(2) *Platoon, inverted wedge*.—Each section displaced progressively forward to the right and left front of the base in the platoon. In assuming this formation in a company of three platoons the base platoon forms inverted wedge; the

second platoon forms echelon left; and the third platoon forms echelon right. (See figs. 17 and 33.)

f. Mass.—(1) A formation of the company in line of platoons with intervals and distances of 5 yards.

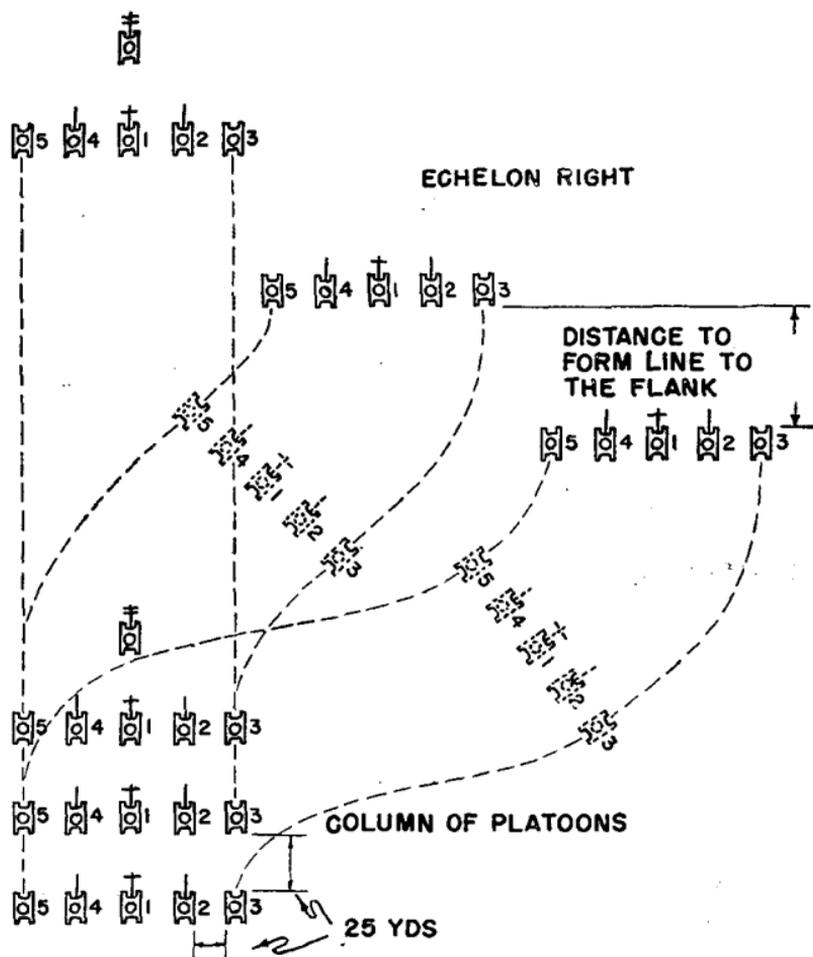


FIGURE 25.—Company from column of platoons to echelon right.

(2) In higher units masses may be grouped as follows:

(a) *Line of masses.*—Masses abreast with 10-yard interval. (See fig. 34.)

(b) *Column of masses.*—Masses placed one behind another with 10 yards distance between companies. (See fig. 34.)

(c) *Line of battalions, in line of masses.*—Battalions, in

line of masses, abreast with 20-yard interval between battalions.

(d) *Line of battalions, in column of masses.*—Battalions in column of masses, abreast with 20-yard interval between battalions.

(e) *Column of battalions, in line of masses.*—Battalions in line of masses, placed one behind another, with distances of 20 yards between battalions.

(f) *Column of battalions, in column of masses.*—Battalions

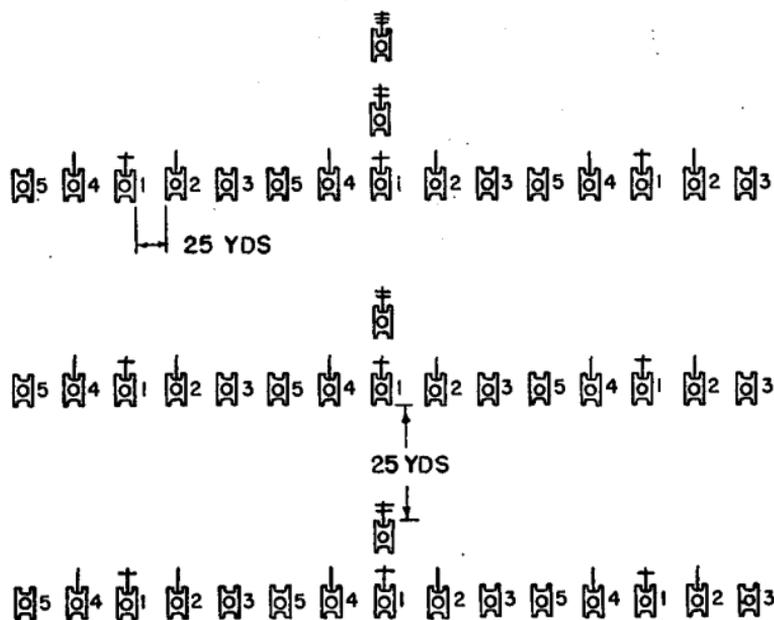


FIGURE 26.—Column of companies in line.

in column of masses, placed one behind another, with distances of 20 yards between battalions.

(3) Mass formations may be used when the company or higher commander desires to give instructions to his unit, and for ceremonies or inspections. When subject to the fire of the enemy, mass formations should never be used. (See ch. 4.)

(4) These formations are gained in the same manner as any other line or column formations on the appropriate commands or signals.

g. To assemble.—(1) Being in disorder or dispersed, the

leader commands or signals: **ASSEMBLE**, and halts or moves slowly forward.

(2) In the section and platoon, all vehicles assemble, in column, in rear of their leader in normal order.

(3) In the company, each platoon is assembled by its platoon leader in an orderly manner. It is then conducted in

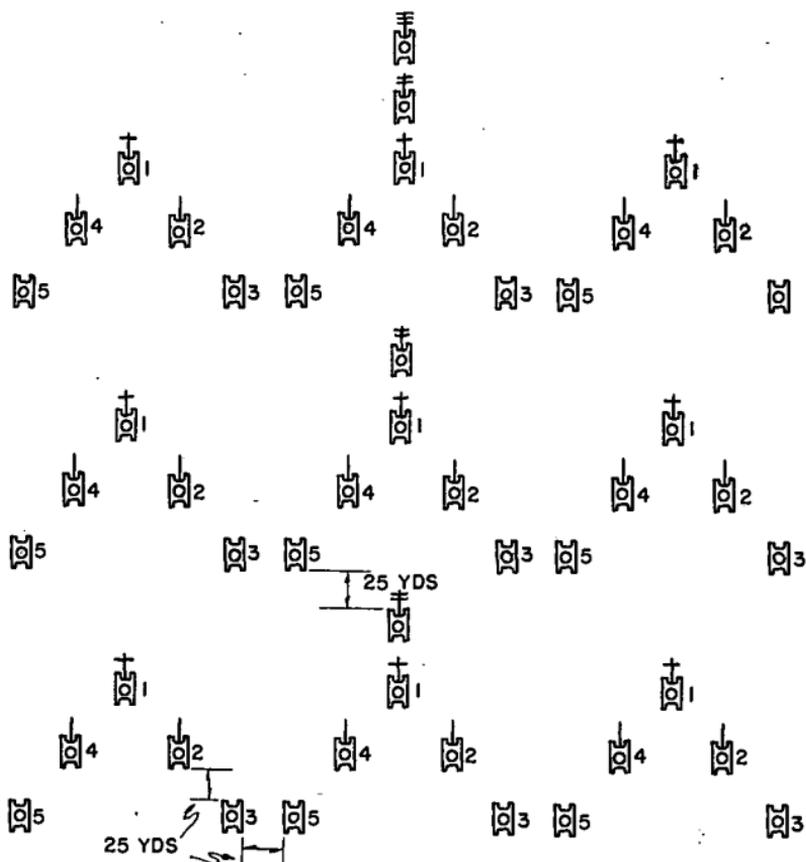
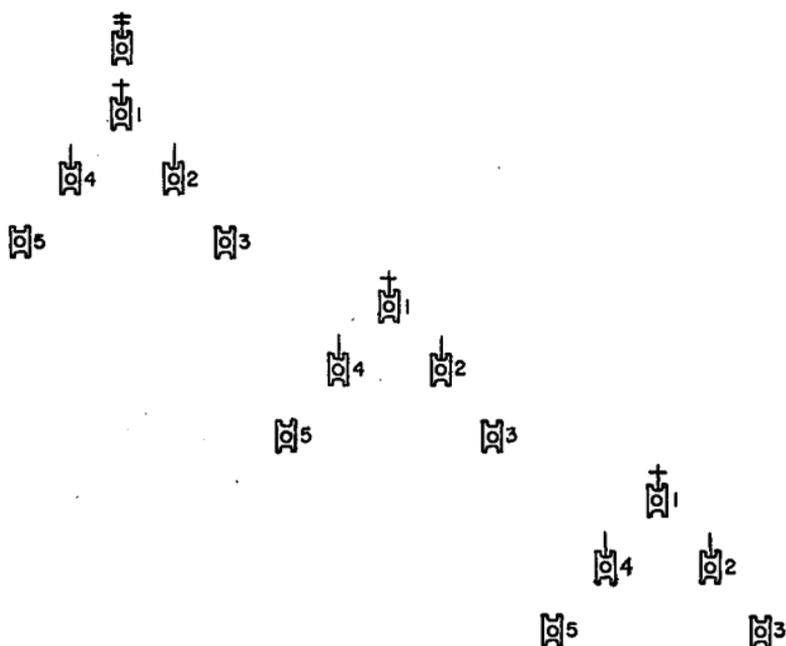
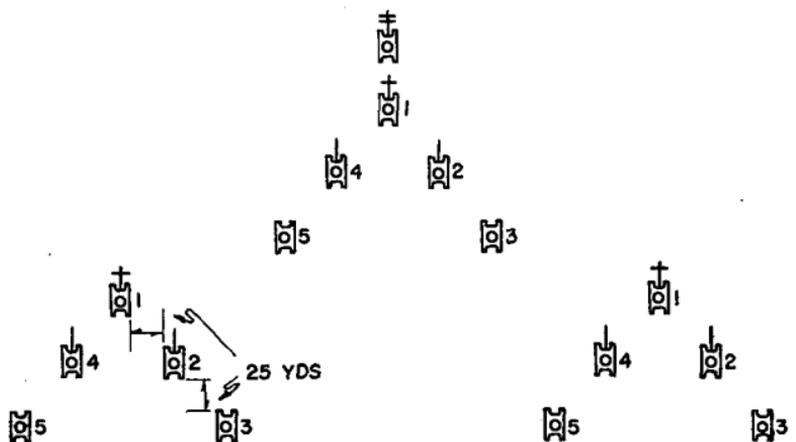


FIGURE 27.—Column of companies in line of platoons in wedge.

the most convenient manner toward the company commander, forming line of platoons, unless the signal **ASSEMBLE** is followed by the signal for some other formation. The company commander indicates the base platoon and causes it to follow him or designates its location; the platoons form in normal order, unless otherwise directed.



① COMPANY ECHELON RIGHT, PLATOONS IN WEDGE.



② COMPANY WEDGE, PLATOONS IN WEDGE.

FIGURE 28.

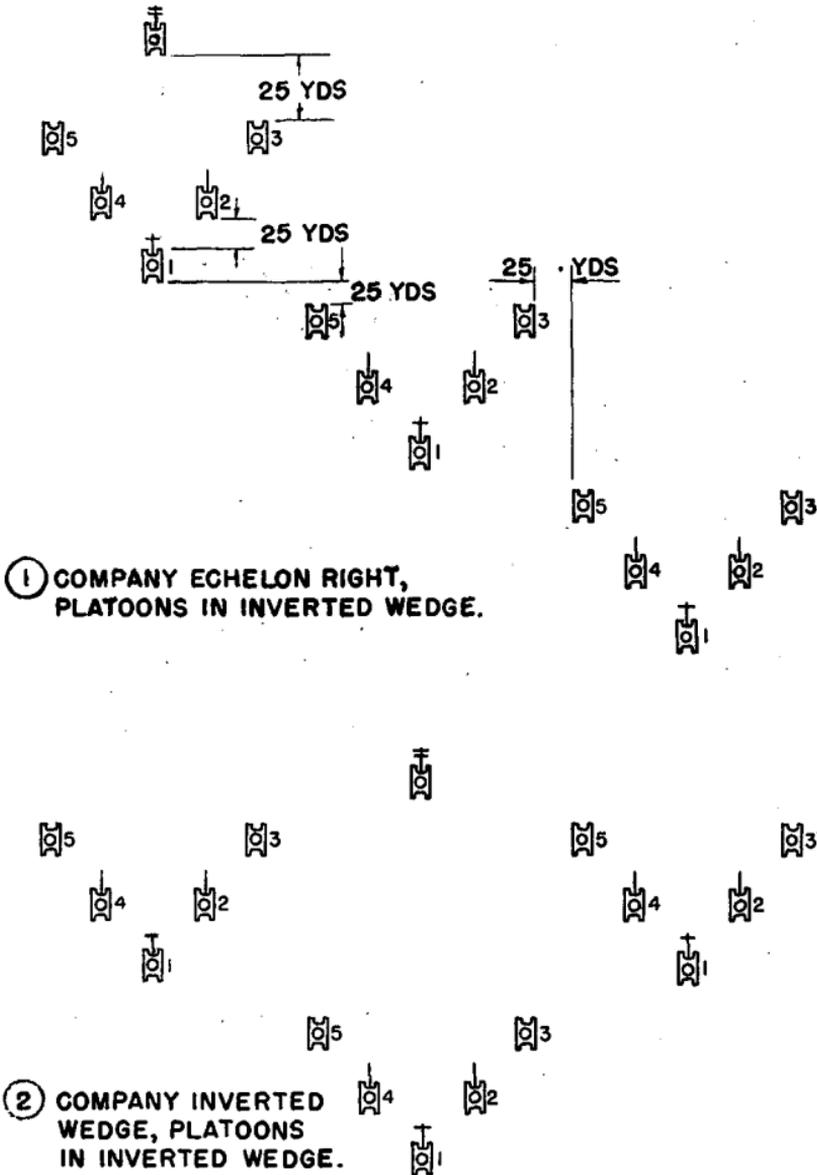


FIGURE 29.

h. Movement to flank or rear.—(1) Simultaneous changes in direction of vehicles to either flank or to the rear will be executed on the command or signal: 1. BY THE RIGHT (LEFT) FLANK, 2. MARCH, OR 1. TO THE REAR, 2. MARCH. Vehicles will execute TO THE REAR by turning to the left about.

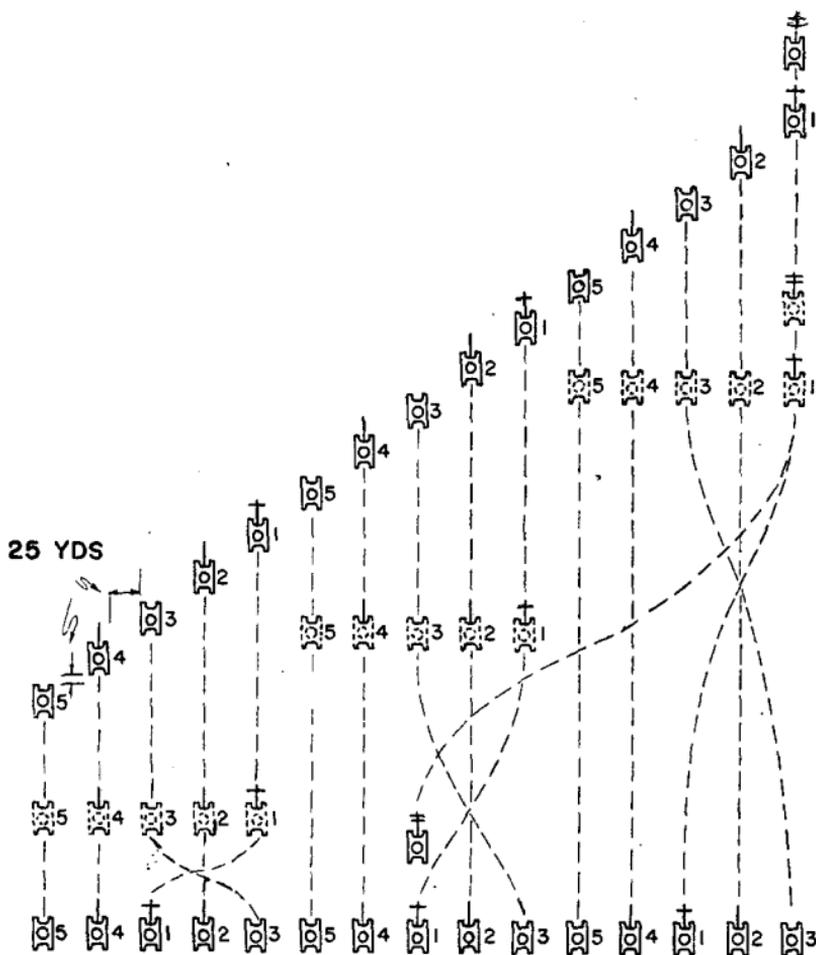
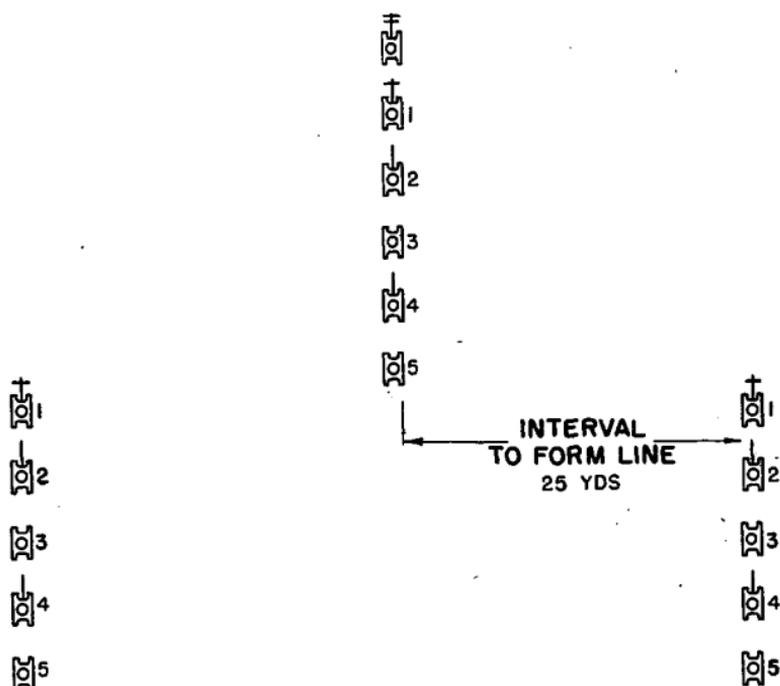


FIGURE 30.—Company from line to echelon left.

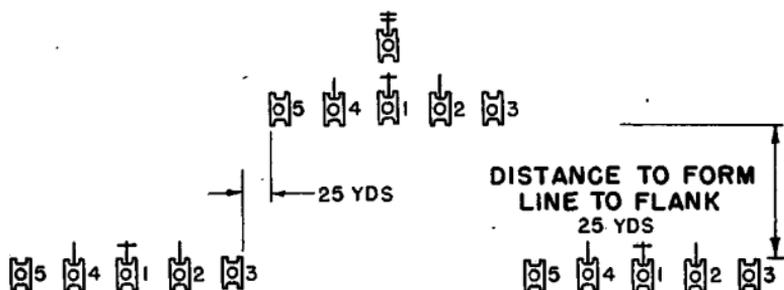
Platoon and higher commanders will proceed as rapidly as possible to their positions at the head of their units. Vehicles within the platoon will resume their normal positions upon the next change in formation.

(2) If it is desired to change the direction of larger ele-

ments simultaneously, the signals will be those for changing direction preceded by the signal for the element. For ex-



① COMPANY WEDGE, PLATOONS IN COLUMN.



② COMPANY WEDGE, PLATOONS IN LINE.

FIGURE 31.

ample, to have all platoons in a company move to the right flank, the signal will be: 1. PLATOONS, 2. CHANGE DIRECTION TO THE RIGHT, 3. MARCH.

i. Right (left) front into line.—Line may be formed from column on either side of leader by the command: 1. RIGHT (LEFT) FRONT INTO LINE, 2. MARCH, or the signal for LINE followed by pointing to the right (left) front. At this command all leaders and elements move out successively to

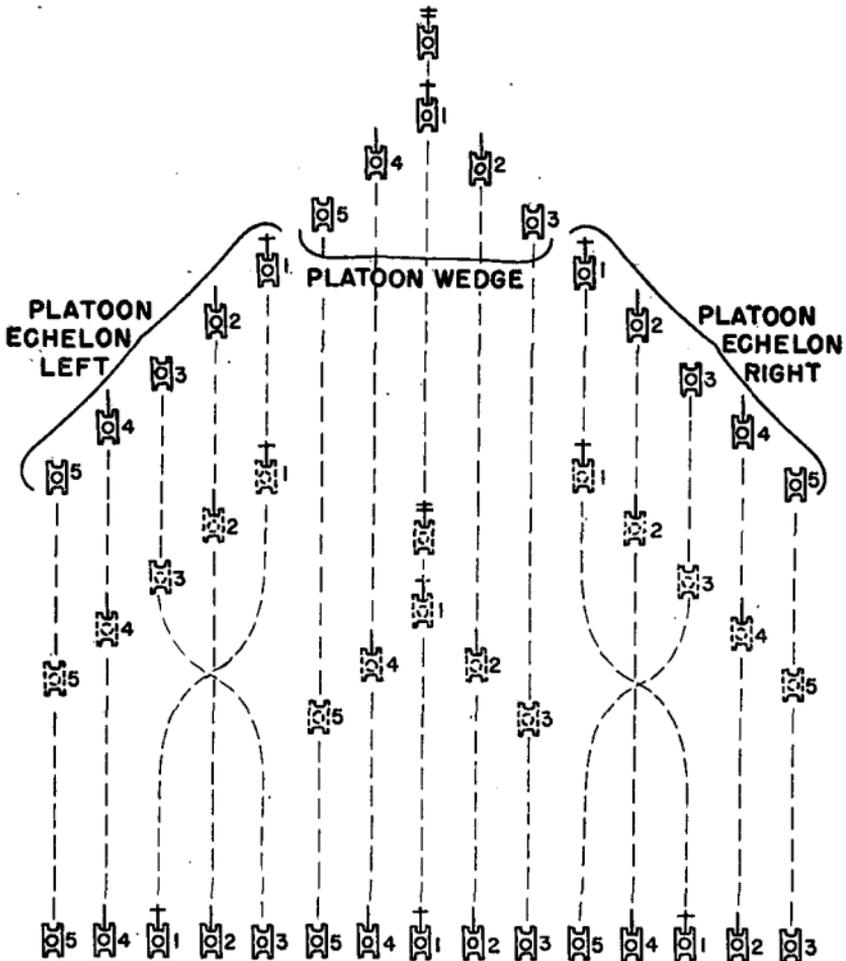


FIGURE 32.—Company from line to wedge.

the right (left) front from column in time to come up abreast on the line formed by the leader when he halts. The interval between vehicles is 5 yards unless otherwise prescribed. (See fig. 35.)

j. To disperse.—(1) To disperse quickly from any forma-

tion, at the command or signal **DISPERSE**, vehicles in a platoon acting alone disperse irregularly so that they are not less than 50 yards from any other vehicle and halt. If the platoon is part of a higher unit, platoons are led by the platoon leaders rapidly in different directions and vehicles

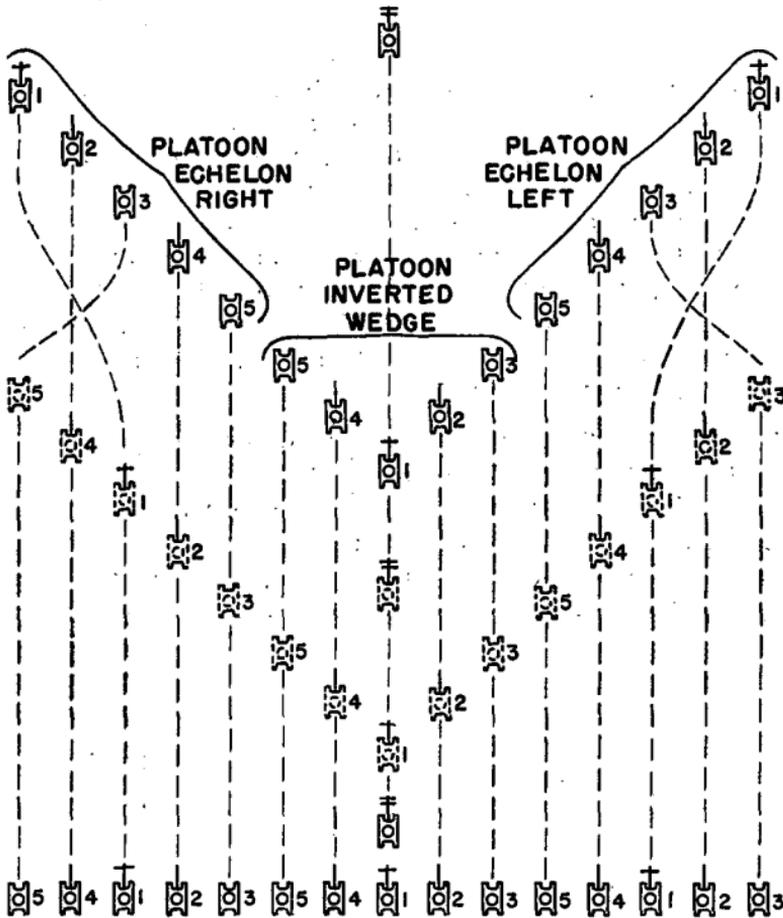
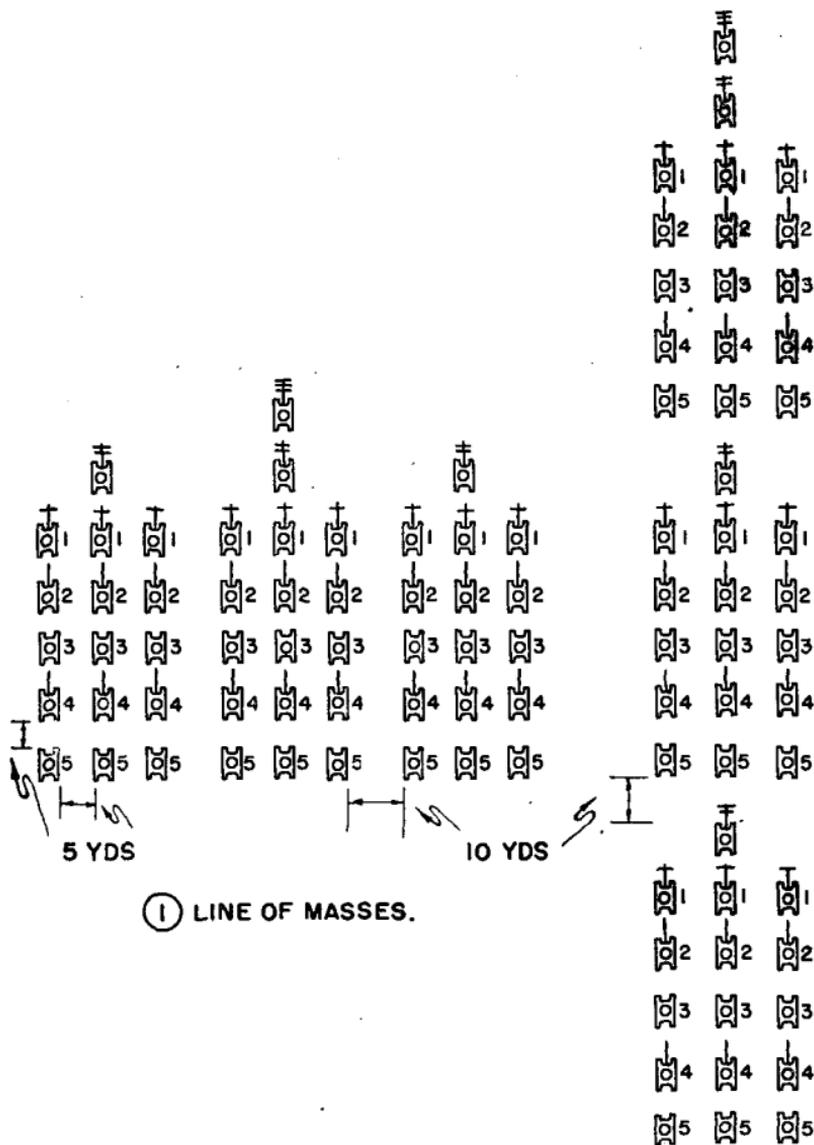


FIGURE 33.—Company from line to inverted wedge.

disperse as in the platoon acting alone. The distance between platoons will not be less than 50 yards.

(2) This movement is for use in any emergency when troops are in a close order or march formation and it is desired to spread out the vehicles rapidly to minimize the effect of a surprise attack by air or artillery fire. Vehicles



① LINE OF MASSES.

② COLUMN OF MASSES.

FIGURE 34.

endeavor to halt under cover and place themselves in positions of readiness to meet any such attack.

k. To follow leader.—(1) To change formation quickly or to bring order out of confusion, the leader moves off in the desired direction and commands or signals: 1. (SUCH) FORMATION, 2. FOLLOW ME.

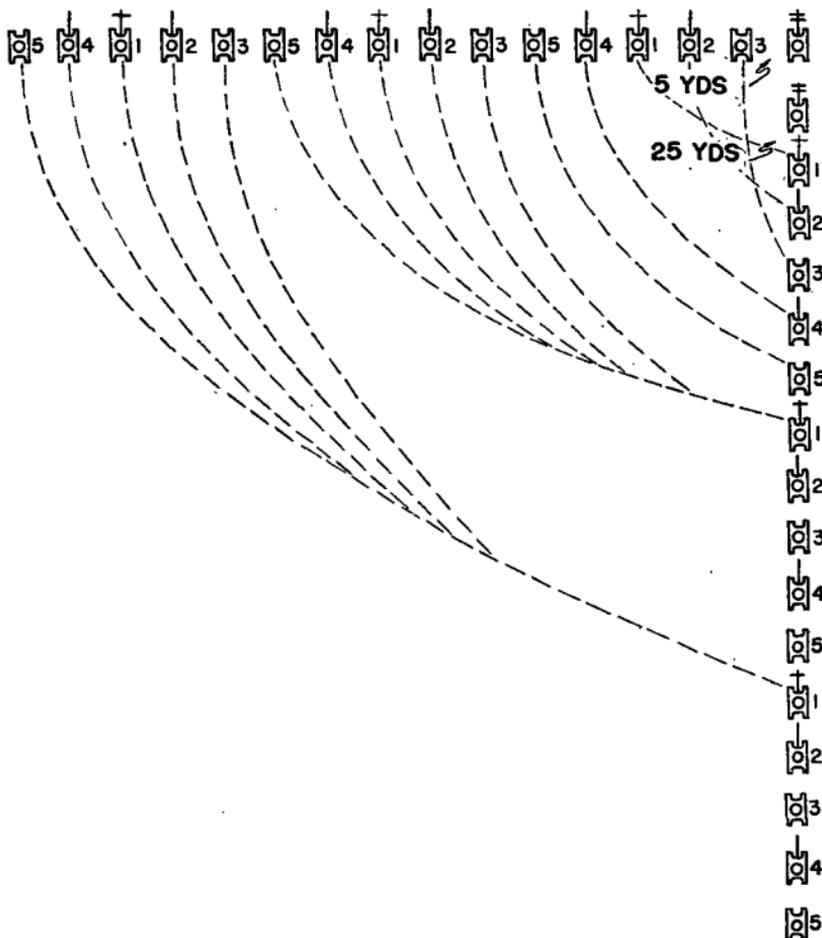


FIGURE 35.—Company from column to left front into line.

(2) In the platoon, all vehicles move rapidly and take up the designated formation.

(3) In the company, each platoon leader, if the platoon is not in the desired formation, commands or signals:

	COMPANY COMMANDER
	PLATOON LEADER
	RIFLE SQUAD
	60 MM MORTAR SQUAD
	LIGHT MACHINE GUN SQUAD
	1/4 TON TRUCK
	S P ANTITANK GUN
	TRUCK, 2 1/2 TON, EQUIPMENT
	TRUCK, 2 1/2 TON, KITCHEN
	CARRIER, HALF-TRACK, M4, 81-MM MORTAR
	ASSAULT GUN
	AMMUNITION CARRIER
	MOTORCYCLE
	MAINTENANCE

FIGURE 36.—Additional identifying symbols, used in figures 37 to 42, inclusive.

1. (SUCH) FORMATION, 2. FOLLOW ME, and then conducts it toward the company commander. The platoon first arriving near the company commander becomes the base of the new formation.

l. To rally.—(1) Being in disorder or dispersed, the leader commands or signals: RALLY, and moves slowly forward or halts.

(2) In the platoon, all vehicles move rapidly and form wedges in rear of their leader in any order. Vehicles within the platoon will resume their normal positions upon the next change in formation or upon the command ASSEMBLE.

(3) In the company, each platoon is rallied by its platoon leader while moving and is conducted rapidly toward the company commander, forming line of platoons in wedges. The first platoon to reach the company commander forms in his rear, and other platoons form on the nearest flank.

(4) Rally is used when a rapid reforming is required to renew the attack or to meet an immediate hostile threat.

■ 15. ARMORED INFANTRY FORMATIONS.—*a. General.*—Drill formation for the armored infantry when mounted in carriers is the same as for other armored vehicles. In addition to the formations prescribed in paragraph 14, certain other formations are prescribed for armored infantry.

b. Diamond formation.—The basic formation for the infantry platoon is the diamond formation. In this formation the platoon leader's rifle squad and the two other rifle squads form a wedge, with the platoon leader at the apex. The 60-mm mortar squad and the light machine-gun squad are on a line in rear of the wedge formed by the rifle squads. The company may be formed in line, column, echelon, wedge, or inverted wedge, in each formation with the platoons in diamond formation. (See figs. 37 to 42, incl.)

■ 16. MOTORCYCLES.—*a. Company motorcycles* do not usually participate in mounted close order drill. Motorcyclists are assembled under a leader and trained in the duties normally assigned to them, such as traffic control, delivery of messages, and scouting and patrolling.

b. In mounted extended order drill, motorcyclists move with their respective units or may be assembled for such training as the unit commander may direct.

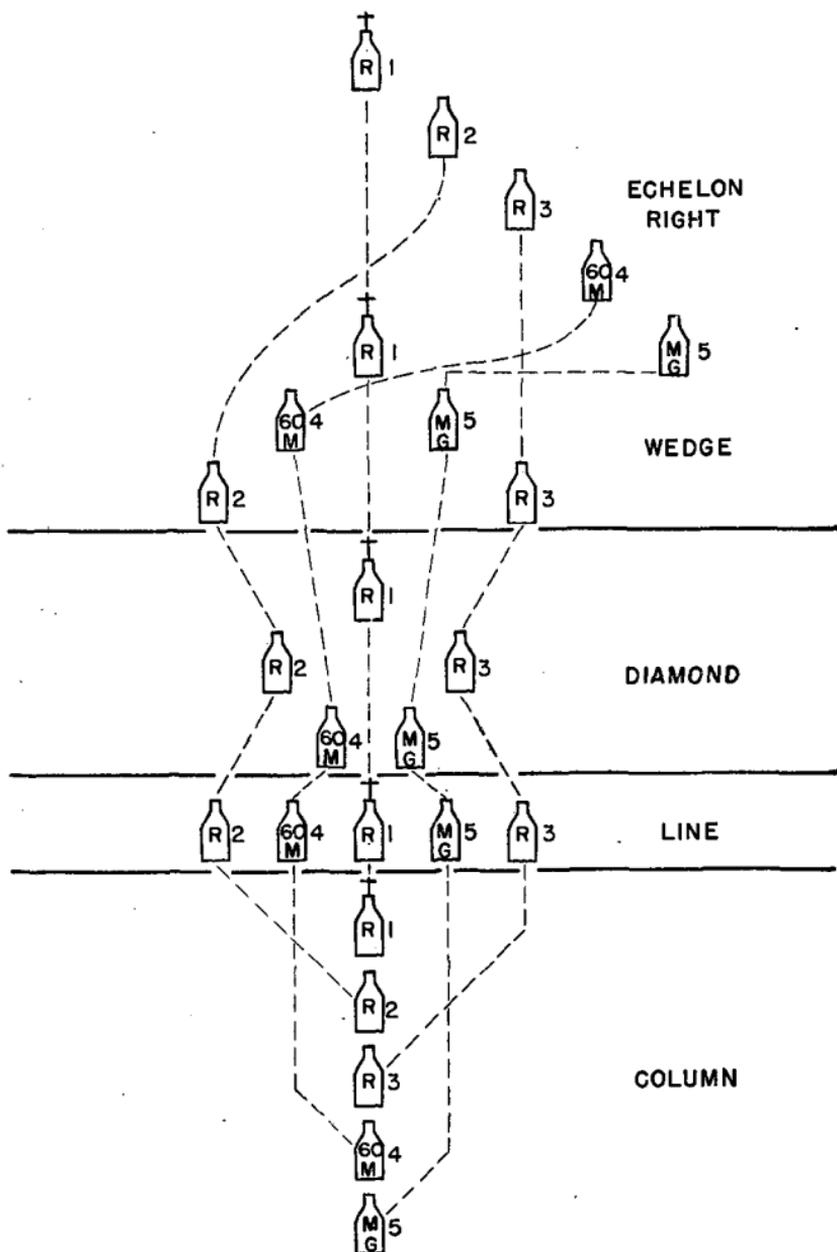


FIGURE 37.—Infantry platoon formations.

c. Except as shown in the figures or explained in the text, motorcyclist positions are not prescribed.

■ 17. EXTRA VEHICLES.—*a.* Extra vehicles, such as those in battalion and company headquarters, and administrative vehicles are not shown in the figures in this chapter.

b. When present at mounted drill, vehicles in battalion and company headquarters take position as prescribed by the

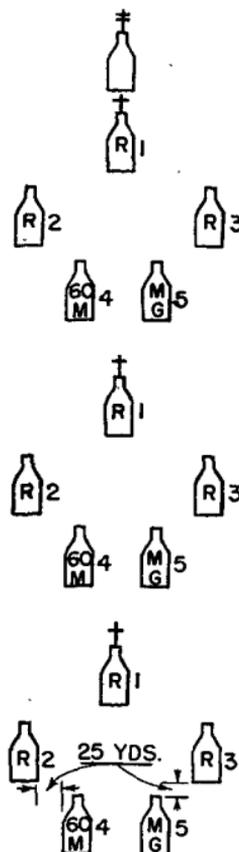


FIGURE 38.—Infantry company in column with platoons in diamond formation.

commanders or are attached to platoons of the companies for drill.

c. Administrative vehicles do not participate in mounted drill. Their positions in other formations are prescribed in chapters 3 and 4.

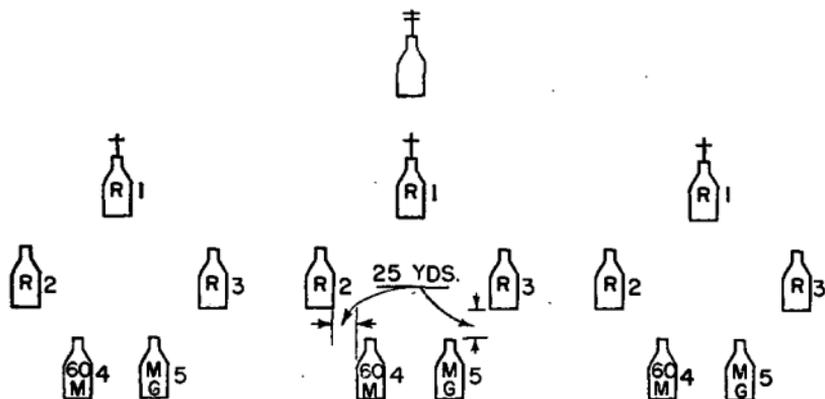


FIGURE 39.—Infantry company in line with platoons in diamond formation.

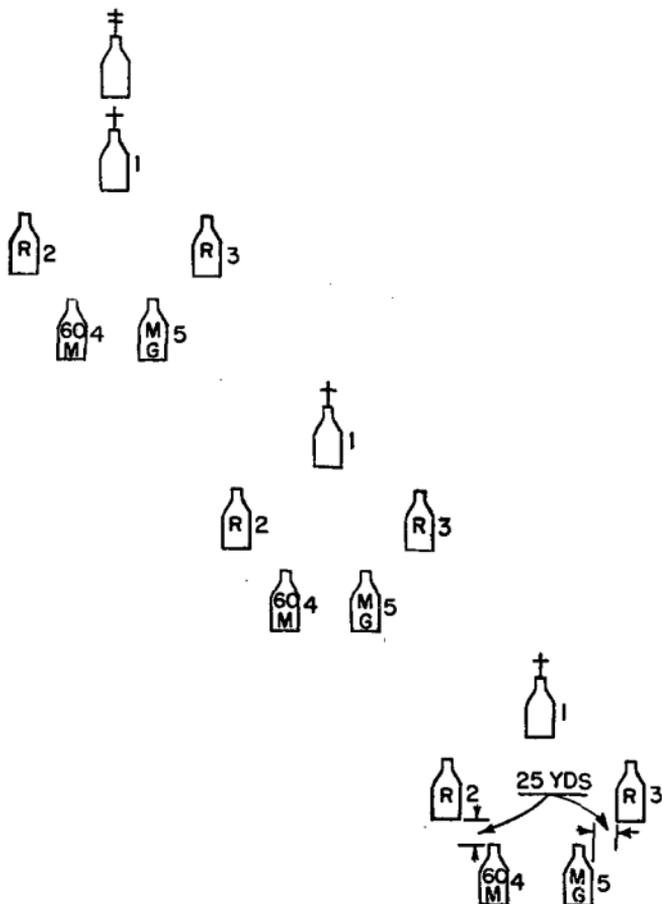


FIGURE 40.—Infantry company echelon right with platoons in diamond formation.

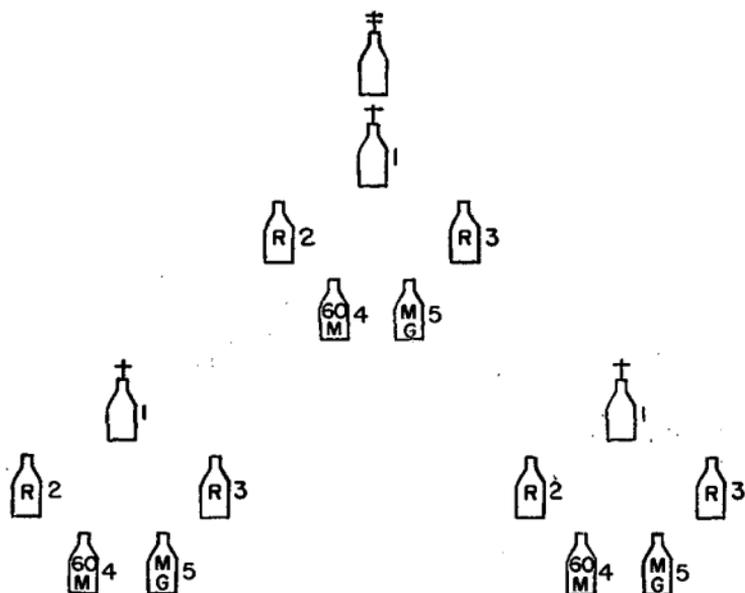


FIGURE 41.—Infantry company in wedge with platoons in diamond formation.

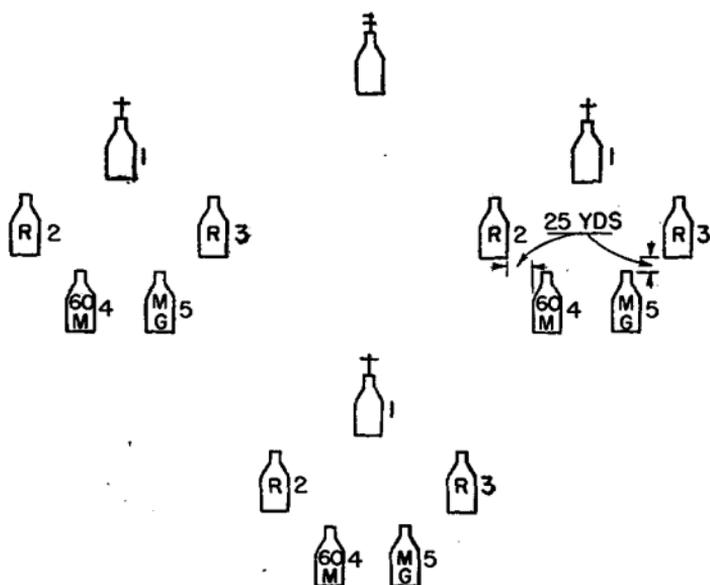


FIGURE 42.—Infantry company in inverted wedge with platoons in diamond formation.

CHAPTER 3

PLATOON AND COMPANY FORMATIONS

■ 18. **GENERAL.**—Formations for all platoons and companies are not prescribed in this manual. Examples (see figs. 43, 44, and 45) are shown which commanders should use as patterns for forming of companies other than those prescribed in this chapter. When a company is formed in line, with the platoons in column, the formation should be in such order that no adjustment for position is necessary in moving out behind the company commander. In a tank company, for example, the first platoon should be on the right flank, the second platoon to its left, etc. When the command or signal to move out is given, the platoons and sections will fall in column one behind another. (See fig. 46.)

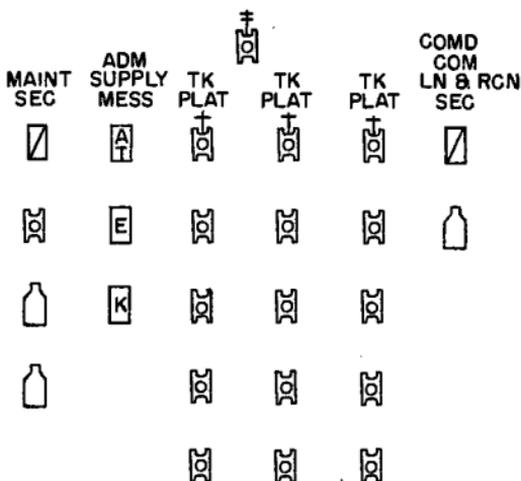


FIGURE 43.—Formation, light tank company.

■ 19. **TO FORM PLATOON, DISMOUNTED, WITH VEHICLES.**—*a.* The platoon is formed, dismounted, by the platoon sergeant and, after verification, is marched with necessary arms, ammunition, and equipment to the vehicle park. (See FM 22-5.) If alone, it is marched by the platoon sergeant; if part of the company, as described in paragraph 20. When

the platoon has reached the vehicle park, the platoon sergeant halts the platoon, directs the car commanders to get their vehicles ready and placed in the desired formation, and then commands: **FALL OUT**. At this command the car crews fall out and proceed to their individual vehicles. Vehi-

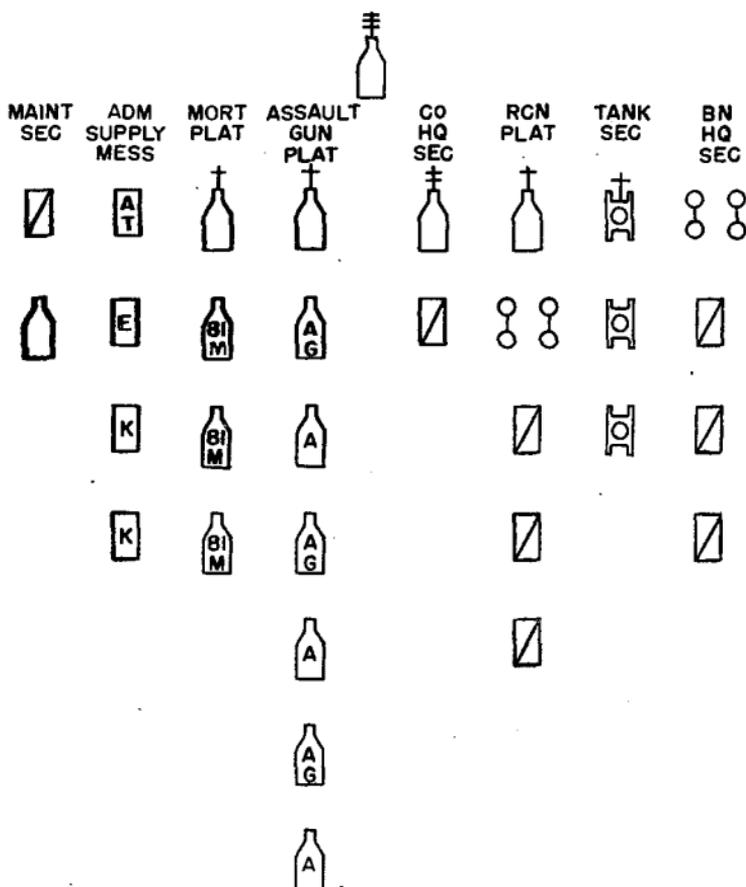


FIGURE 44.—Formation, headquarters and headquarters company, armored battalion.

cles are inspected by the car commander and the driver while the remainder of the crew installs weapons and loads ammunition and field equipment.

b. As soon as the platoon leader's car is inspected and the engine started it is moved under direction of the platoon sergeant to the point where it is desired to form the platoon.

Remaining vehicles form successively in the prescribed formation in normal order (permanent crew number). Distances of 5 yards are normally taken; they may be reduced if space is limited.

c. When all vehicles are in place and ready to move, the platoon sergeant takes position 6 yards in front of the right wheel of the platoon leader's car, faces it, and commands:

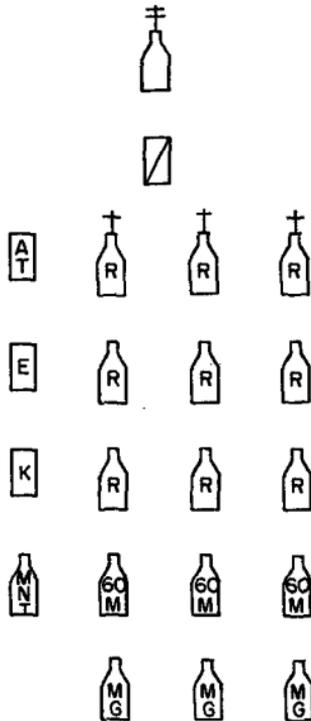


FIGURE 45.—Formation, rifle company (armored).

1. DISMOUNTED POSTS, 2. FALL IN. After the car crews have assumed their dismounted posts and car commanders have verified the presence of their men, the platoon sergeant commands: **REPORT**. Each car commander in turn from front to rear, in column, or from right to left, in line, salutes and reports, "(Such) squad present" or "(So-and-so) absent." If no verification is required, or if it has been made previously, no report is required.

d. After the car crews are formed and necessary adjustments made, the platoon sergeant faces about, salutes, and

reports to the platoon leader (or first sergeant when the platoon is formed as part of the company), "Sir, the platoon is present or accounted for" or "Sir, (so-and-so) absent."

e. While the platoon is being formed (alone), the platoon leader places himself 4 yards in front of and facing the platoon sergeant in time to receive the report.

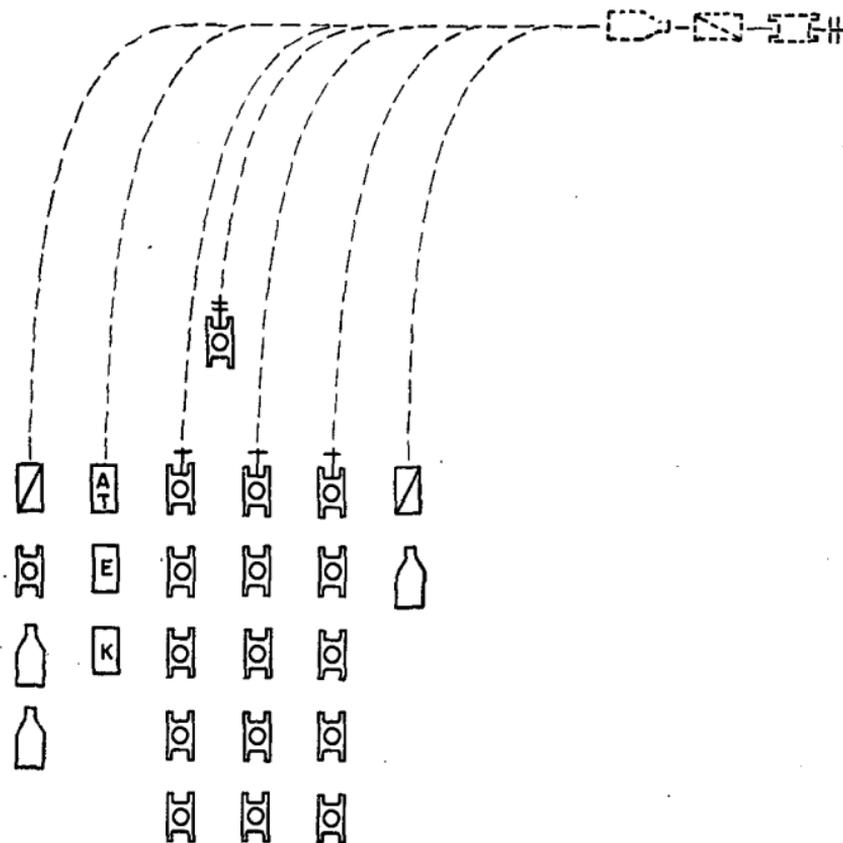


FIGURE 46.—When given command or signal to move out, platoons follow command vehicle from right to left.

f. To mount the platoon, the platoon commander gives the commands or signals to mount, and the car crews mount as prescribed for the car crew.

■ 20. TO FORM COMPANY, DISMOUNTED, WITH VEHICLES.—a. The company is formed dismounted by the first sergeant (see FM 22-5) and, after verification, is marched with necessary arms, ammunition, and equipment to the vehicle park. The

company is halted at the vehicle park where the first sergeant directs the platoon sergeants to take charge of their platoons. Vehicles are inspected and made ready as prescribed for the platoon.

b. As soon as the company commander's vehicle is inspected and its engine started, it is moved under the direction of the first sergeant to the point where it is desired to form the company. The first sergeant commands: **FORM COMPANY IN MASS.** The base platoon is then formed on its platoon leader's vehicle in rear of the company commander's vehicle, in the proper formation, followed successively by the remaining platoons. (See figs. 43, 44, and 45.) In a column formation the order from front to rear is that of the permanent platoon number, with the company headquarters as prescribed in **FM 17-10.** Distances and intervals of 5 yards are normally taken. When space is limited, the company may be formed in line by moving all vehicles a short distance straight to the front to a line established by the company commander's vehicle. Upon moving out from this formation, platoons and vehicles within the platoon move out in their normal order unless otherwise prescribed.

c. When all platoons have been formed and are ready to move, the first sergeant takes position 6 yards in front of the right wheel of the company commander's vehicle, faces it, and commands: **1. DISMOUNTED POSTS, 2. FALL IN.** After the car crews have assumed their dismounted posts and the platoon sergeants have received and verified the reports of their platoons (if verification has not been previously made), the first sergeant commands: **REPORT.** The platoon sergeants, in order from right to left, or front to rear, salute and report, "(Such) platoon is formed," or in case no previous verification has taken place, "(Such) platoon present or accounted for" or "(Such) platoon, (so-and-so) absent." At the command **POSTS**, given by the first sergeant, all platoon sergeants take their dismounted posts.

d. The first sergeant executes an about face and reports to the company commander, "Sir, the company is formed" or "Sir, (so-and-so) absent." When the company commander acknowledges the salute, the first sergeant, without command, takes his post in company headquarters.

e. The company commander places himself 4 yards in front of the first sergeant in time to receive his report.

f. The platoon leaders take their posts 6 yards in front of the right wheel of their vehicles when the first sergeant has reported.

g. The company mounts upon the command or signal of the company commander.

CHAPTER 4
CEREMONIES AND INSPECTIONS

	Paragraphs	
SECTION I. General.....		21-25
II. Reviews.....		26-39
III. Parades.....		40-41
IV. Escorts.....		42-47
V. Inspections.....		48-52

SECTION I

GENERAL

■ 21. **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of ceremonies, including inspections, is to promote a high state of morale, preserve tradition, render honors, or exhibit the state of training of a command. Other than for necessary practice, ceremonies should be held only when the occasion for them is appropriate and apparent. Inspections must be frequent. Reviews will normally be mounted, parades dismounted, and inspections mounted or dismounted, depending upon the purpose. Escorts may be either mounted or dismounted. For parades, the appearance and movement of troops in formation being primary considerations, the dismounted ceremony is considered desirable and the usual form. From the viewpoint of the troops concerned, the purpose of ceremonies is to make the best possible impression on the reviewing officer and spectators in the limited time that can be devoted. Each formation should be precise; each movement should be executed with precision and dispatch. While a review or parade does not test or demonstrate the tactical efficiency of a command, it does permit the reviewing officer and the public to make a quick and accurate estimate of the unit's appearance and training in certain disciplinary drills.

■ 22. **REFERENCE.**—Chapter 9, FM 22-5, and chapter 2 of this manual will be used as reference for all ceremonies.

■ 23. **MODIFICATIONS.**—Certain modifications, due to nature of the terrain, size and shape of space available, and similar factors, will be necessary in as large and varied a unit as the

armored division. It is anticipated that ceremonies by units to include the armored division will be held. Simple effective formations for armored force units are the only practical type.

■ 24. **DISMOUNTED CEREMONIES.**—The first concern of armored troops, which are mounted troops, is to be proficient in their battle drills which are primarily mounted evolutions. Precise, short, snappy, dismounted drills are exceedingly useful in inculcating discipline, smartness, and proficiency in certain individual and organization drills. Such drills should therefore be scheduled whenever necessary to maintain a reasonable proficiency in such disciplinary exercises, and when needed to aid in building up of pride and spirit in an organization by its members. Dismounted ceremonies conform in general to the provisions of FM 22-5.

■ 25. **GENERAL DATA.**—With modifications as outlined, this manual will serve as a guide for ceremonies and inspections of armored force units. Every soldier and unit in the armored force should be required to participate occasionally in ceremonies.

SECTION II

REVIEWS

■ 26. **GENERAL.**—*a.* A review is a ceremony tendered to a civil or military official or to a foreign dignitary. A review may also be held for the purpose of presenting decorations or making a general inspection of a command.

b. A review consists of four parts:

- (1) Formation of troops and transportation.
- (2) Presentation and honors.
- (3) Inspection (passing around the troops).
- (4) March in review.

c. Reviews in the armored force will ordinarily be mounted.

■ 27. **COMMANDER OF TROOPS.**—This subject is covered in FM 22-5. When an organization is reviewed by an officer junior in rank to the commanding officer, the commanding officer receives the review as reviewing officer and is accompanied by the junior reviewing officer who takes post on

the commander's left. (FM 22-5 covers presentation and honors.)

■ 28. PREPARATIONS.—*a.* Thorough preparations must be made for a review of an armored unit, and the line on which the troops are to form is marked or otherwise designated. The post of the reviewing officer is marked with flags, as is the line of march.

b. The reviewing stand and markers are so placed that, as each unit line passes in review, its right is 20 yards from the reviewing officer. When formed for regimental and battalion reviews, the line of troops is about 125 yards in front of the reviewing stand. In the case of larger reviews, the line of regimental commanders is about 125 yards in front of the reviewing stand.

c. The distance from the reviewing stand to the line of troops must be sufficient to permit the necessary evolutions being readily executed, and to provide ample room for the march past the reviewing stand.

■ 29. BAND.—At mounted ceremonies the band and buglers are formed dismounted and take posts 25 yards to the left and 5 yards in rear of the reviewing officer. In large reviews where more than one band is present, the additional band or bands form on the left of the first band, or bands may be massed. The band plays while the reviewing officer is inspecting the troops and plays appropriate music during the march past the reviewing stand.

■ 30. RULES FOR PERSONNEL AT MOUNTED REVIEWS.—*a.* Personnel other than officers, drivers, and riflemen riding seated in open vehicles fold their arms when passing the reviewing officer, right arm uppermost, holding the folded arms close to the chest. The folded arms are held horizontal for a distance of 15 yards before and after passing the reviewing stand.

b. Tank commanders ride in the normal position for traveling with turrets open. Platoon and higher commanders of all units stand and salute as they pass the reviewing officer, beginning the salute 15 yards from the reviewing stand and holding it until 15 yards beyond the reviewing stand.

c. Changes from dismounted to mounted posts and reverse are executed at double time.

d. Unless otherwise ordered, all vehicular weapons are mounted on their vehicular mounts and carried with covers off. Machine guns other than anti-aircraft guns are adjusted and clamped with the barrel horizontal and pointed in line with axis of the vehicle. Anti-aircraft guns are pointed to the left and upward at maximum elevation. Rifles and sub-machine guns are carried in the normal positions. All ports are closed. All tank doors, except the side and escape doors in medium tanks, are open; glass windshields remain in normal position and turret tops are open. Bows and canvas tops of all combat vehicles are carried as for combat. The bows and canvas tops of cargo vehicles are mounted as for inclement weather. Radio antennae are secured as prescribed by regimental orders.

e. Motorcycle windshields are removed unless otherwise ordered. Leg shields are used unless otherwise ordered.

f. When posted with the organization commander, dismounted, the guidon is one pace to his rear and three paces to his left. When the commander is in his vehicle the guidon is flown therefrom.

■ 31. INITIAL FORMATIONS.—Ceremonies will ordinarily be held in a mass formation as prescribed in chapter 2.

a. Line of masses as indicated in figure 34 is the normal formation for the battalion and regiment. Column of masses may be used or, for large reviews, line of battalions in columns of masses may be preferable. Line of masses, or line of battalions in line of masses, should be used as far as practicable, with the platoon or similar unit forming line for passing the reviewing officer.

b. A review in column of vehicles may also be used and is described herein. Space conditions may make it desirable to use columns of two to four vehicles.

c. The rules for ceremonies must be flexible. Distances are prescribed in chapter 2. Dismounted occupants of vehicles form at close intervals (4 inches) in one rank, with the right flank 4 yards in front of the right track or right front wheel of their vehicles and aligned to the right. If there are more than five enlisted occupants, two ranks are formed, with the excess men in the second rank 40 inches in rear of the first rank. Platoon leaders and company and battalion com-

manders form 6 yards directly in front of their vehicles, when dismounted. When personnel armed with individual weapons (rifle, submachine guns) dismount, they form with those weapons.

d. The positions of vehicles, to include the battalion, are shown in figure 34. The vehicle of a regimental commander forms 20 yards in front of the center of the regiment in case of reviews for units larger than the regiment. Staff vehicles, except the second in command of a company, form with the right of the line 5 yards in rear of the commander's vehicle. Motors are shut off.

e. (1) Extra vehicles, administrative vehicles, motorcycles, and transportation which is not a part of a combat platoon or similar unit may be formed as an additional column on the left of each company or similar unit, or it may be advisable to group all administrative and extra vehicles in columns at the left of each battalion or regiment or other unit. The motorcycles may be grouped at the head of the review if desired. Where platoons are of less than five vehicles, it may be expedient to place additional vehicles as part of the platoon or to organize them as a separate platoon.

(2) In a division or other large review, the artillery, armored infantry, engineers, and other elements will adopt formations corresponding, in general, to those of the armored regiments.

f. The initial formation is taken and all troops are in position prior to adjutant's call.

■ 32. REVIEWING OFFICER.—*a.* The reviewing officer receives the review dismounted, generally from a reviewing stand.

b. (1) On the ride around the troops, the reviewing officer and those accompanying him salute the standards when passing in front of them only. The standards do not salute. The ride around the troops is made in a designated suitable vehicle and begins at the right of the line keeping the troops on the left. If the troops are at ease, each unit is brought to attention as the reviewing officer and party approach the right of the unit.

(2) On arriving again at the right of the line, after passing around the troops, the commander of troops salutes the reviewing officer, all return to their respective posts, and dis-

mount. Salutes by the reviewing officer and those at the reviewing stand are covered in FM 22-5.

c. In large reviews, signals, radio, or bugle calls will generally be utilized to transmit commands.

■ 33. TO PASS IN REVIEW.—*a.* When the reviewing officer has resumed his post after the ride around or when he indicates he does not desire to ride around the troops, the commander of troops commands or signals: PREPARE TO PASS IN REVIEW, 2. MOUNT.

b. Units normally pass in review with platoons or similar units in line, with 5-yard interval between vehicles and 50 yards distance between platoons or similar units, platoon or similar unit leaders on the right. The guide is right. The company commander is 25 yards in front of the center of his leading platoon, with his second in command, if present, on line with and 5 yards to his left. Distances between companies passing in review are 75 yards, between battalions, 100 yards, and between regiments and separate units, 125 yards. (See fig. 47.)

c. At the command MOUNT, all break ranks, move at double time, and mount. Engines are started. Movements to pass in review from mass formation are as follows:

(1) *By right flank.*—Executed successively by platoons at the command PASS IN REVIEW. Commands or signals are given by each platoon leader.

(2) *By left flank.*—Executed successively by platoons in order to make the next change of direction at the end of the review field.

(3) *By left flank.*—Executed successively by platoons in order to make the last change of direction so the platoon will be in line for passing the reviewing stand.

d. After the review, platoons successively leave the field in column or other prescribed formation by designated routes, or move to assembly areas, as directed in orders for the review.

e. In case the initial formation is in column of masses or other column formation, each rear platoon or other rear basic review unit moves to the front, after the units ahead have cleared, and then executes the prescribed flank movements to pass in review on the same ground as the leading unit in its column.

■ 34. SPEED.—The speed for the review is prescribed by the commanding officer but should be approximately 10 to 15 miles per hour. In road reviews, a speed of 15 miles per hour or more may be prescribed.

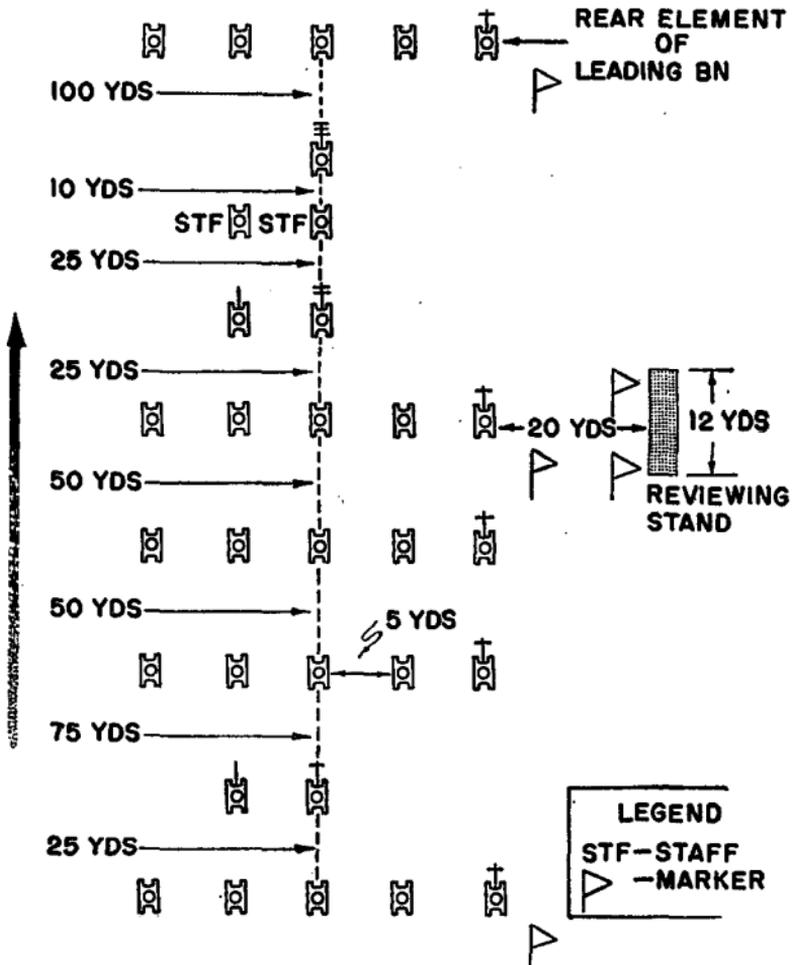


FIGURE 47.—Passing in review.

■ 35. ROAD REVIEWS.—Road reviews are usually held in column of single vehicles. Special instructions must be issued for control of traffic, safety precautions, markers, and guides. Speeds and distance between vehicles must be prescribed. In order to prevent traffic jams, provision must be made for

divergent routes for units after having passed the reviewing stand.

■ 36. REVIEW IN COLUMN OF VEHICLES.—This paragraph is applicable to road reviews.

a. The regiment or other unit forms in column of vehicles at least 1,000 yards from the reviewing officer, with 5 yards distance between vehicles and 10 yards between companies, halted. Motors are cut.

b. Motorcycles are massed in column of twos or threes at the head of each regiment, or in the case of a battalion, at the head of the battalion, with the rear motorcycle 50 yards ahead of the leading vehicle.

c. The standards are carried in the second car in column.

d. Unit commanders report by radio when their commands are ready to move out. If the reviewing officer desires to inspect the unit before it passes in review, he so indicates and the unit is notified to prepare for inspection. Personnel take dismounted posts in front of their vehicles as for inspection or review. Each company and battalion commander salutes the reviewing officer as he approaches. As soon as the inspection is completed the unit is mounted.

e. When the command or signal to pass in review is given, companies move out so as to pass the reviewing officer at the prescribed rate of speed, and with the prescribed distances between vehicles and units.

f. For reviews of this type, 50 yards is the normal distance between companies, 100 yards between battalions, and 200 yards between regiments. The distance between vehicles is normally the number of yards equal to twice the speedometer reading in miles per hour. The speed, generally at least 15 miles per hour, is set to meet local conditions and should never exceed 25 miles per hour. All car commanders must constantly watch speeds and distances. Changes of speed must be gradual. Preservation of distances between vehicles will take precedence over distance between units.

g. Drivers must be careful to prevent jamming at the reviewing stand, and should pass any disabled vehicle, or vehicle that is unable to keep its place in the column. Such vehicles should pull well over to the right side of the road (and off the road where practicable) and the senior in the vehicle should signal others to pass.

■ 37. STANDARDS.—*a.* At all mounted formations in which the national and regimental standards are carried, they are mounted on a command car, or other vehicle of regimental headquarters, and posted as appropriate for the ceremony. The standard bearers and the standard guards ride in this vehicle. In a line formation, the vehicle carrying the standards is placed in or near the center of the unit and between battalions or similar elements, on line with the front rank of vehicles. In a column of single or double vehicle formation, the vehicle carrying the standards follows the commander's staff vehicle at the prescribed distance as it does when passing in review, irrespective of the formation. The vehicle is accompanied by two solo motorcyclists, one 2 yards on either side and abreast of the front of the vehicle. Command cars and cars carrying standards move by the shortest practicable route to their positions for passing in review. The national standard is always on the right.

b. At ceremonies, when the troops dismount from vehicles and form dismounted, the standards are removed from the vehicle and take post in the dismounted line. When the troops are presented to the reviewing officer, the regimental standard is dipped when the rank of the officer entitles him to the salute. (See AR 600-30.)

■ 38. MODIFICATIONS.—Modifications to suit local conditions will be necessary for certain units of the armored force. Usually, special instructions must be issued for mounted reviews. The commanding officer prescribes the order of formation and assembly areas for units after the review is completed, if necessary. In case aviation is to participate, special instructions will be issued. Aviation normally flies just prior to the review or as otherwise ordered and in such formations as may be appropriate (see FM 1-60). If it is desired to hold an extended order review or other special type of review in any special formation, special instructions are issued.

■ 39. TERMINATION.—The review terminates when the rear element of the command has passed the reviewing officer. The review ended, unit commanders take charge of their units at a previously designated point and move as directed in the instructions for the review. Standards are dismissed.

If an inspection is to follow the review, units move to the inspection area.

SECTION III

PARADES

■ 40. GENERAL.—*a.* Parades, being formations wherein the color, dignity, and pageantry of military ceremonies are used to instill in the command a sense of pride, esprit, duty, and smartness, and inasmuch as the appearance and movement of troops in formation are the primary consideration, are held dismounted. They may, however, be mounted.

b. As prescribed in FM 22-5, escort of the color or the presentation of decorations may be included in a ceremonial parade.

■ 41. STREET PARADES.—*a.* For street parades, which normally will be mounted, troops are formed and moved in the most convenient manner and are issued special instructions to cover the particular parade.

b. The maximum effect of mounted or partially mounted street parades is gained when individual vehicle weapons and towed weapons are present. Administrative and other miscellaneous vehicles and cargo vehicles are added only when it is desired to increase the size of the parade.

c. Dismounted street parades are covered in FM 22-5. For very long street parades the mounted ceremony is the more practicable.

SECTION IV

ESCORTS

■ 42. GENERAL.—Escorts are ceremonies for the purpose of rendering honors to a national or regimental standard, or escorting personages of high civil or military rank upon their arrival or departure from a military post. They are of three types: escorts of the standard, escorts of honor, and funeral escorts.

a. Escorts of the standard.—When new national or regimental standards are issued to a regiment, they are received with the ceremony of escort to the standard. The ceremony normally is dismounted and is conducted as prescribed in FM 22-5.

b. Escorts of honor.—These may be mounted or dismounted but will normally be mounted. The troops detailed for this duty are selected for their soldierly appearance and superior discipline. The escort forms in line opposite the place where the personage is to present himself. (See FM 22-5.)

■ 43. **FORMATION FOR ESCORT OF HONOR.**—When space permits, a mounted escort forms in line, or line with reduced intervals; personnel take dismounted posts. Buglers form separately on the right or with the band when present. The band ordinarily is not used for mounted escorts, but if used, takes post on the right of the escort and on line with it at a convenient interval. When space does not permit the vehicles of the escort forming in line, they are formed in column, the dismounted personnel in line on the flank of and facing away from the vehicles.

■ 44. **SAFETY MEASURE.**—In the interest of safety, tank commanders will observe from open turrents while the escort is marching.

■ 45. **MODIFICATIONS.**—Certain modifications may be necessary due to limited space or nature of the terrain where the escort is to form.

■ 46. **CEREMONY.**—When the individual to be escorted, accompanied by an officer designated to accompany him, approaches a position in front of the escort, the escort commander from his post in front of the center of the escort commands: 1. **PRESENT**, 2. **ARMS**, turns about, and salutes the person to be honored. The buglers (or band if present) sound appropriate honors. (See AR 600-30.) The escort is then brought to order arms and, after such inspection as the individual may desire, is mounted and moves off in column. (See FM 22-5.) The inspection may be omitted. The same ceremony is repeated at the destination of the escort. When the position of the escort is at a considerable distance from the point where the personage is to be received, a double line of sentinels, conveniently spaced and facing inward, may be posted from that point to the escort. Sentinels successively render the appropriate salute as the personage passes.

■ 47. FUNERAL ESCORTS.—*a.* Funeral escorts follow the procedure prescribed in FM 22-5. The escort is appropriate to the grade of the deceased. (See AR 600-30.) Six pallbearers are selected, if practicable, from the grade of the deceased. If the deceased was a commissioned officer, the casket is borne by six noncommissioned officers who are designated as casket bearers.

b. Funeral escorts may be mounted or dismounted. If mounted, they follow the general provisions of escorts dismounted. When practicable, the escorts may remain mounted in which case the present arms is omitted, the commander only rendering the prescribed salute.

c. Should conditions at the cemetery prevent the escort from entering, the column is halted long enough to remove the casket from the hearse and to permit the escort to turn out of the column and to form line or column near the entrance. If appropriate, the escort may be formed and marched dismounted to the grave. Procedure for escorts accompanying the hearse to a railway station is covered in FM 22-5.

SECTION V

INSPECTIONS

■ 48. GENERAL.—*a.* Inspections may be mounted or dismounted. FM 22-5 covers dismounted inspections. The company and similar unit is the basic unit for inspections. Battalion, regimental, and higher unit commanders should inspect each company in its own area or have each company marched to a designated place at a specified time for inspection. When desired, a battalion or regiment may be formed and inspected in one formation with or without transportation and full field equipment.

b. Due to the variety of units in the armored force and the terrain available, administrative details will differ with various units. The field for the inspection should be carefully marked and laid out and lines designated so as to simplify and expedite the inspection and preparation for inspection. The adjutant, in case of battalion and larger unit inspection, is responsible for alinements. In case of large unit inspections, especially field, a small advance detail from

each battalion may be found desirable. Where the unit is to move to a strange area and lay out a camp for an inspection, battalion details are essential. A guide for every company also may be desirable. Figures 48, 49, and 50 show possible camp lay-outs.

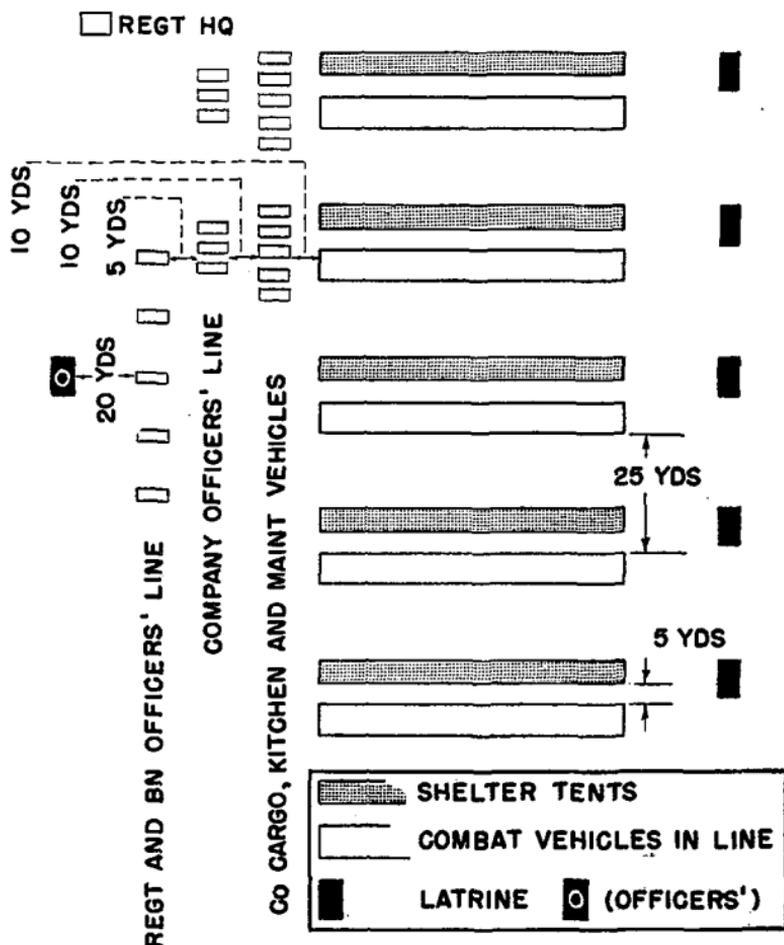


FIGURE 48.—Possible formation for full field inspection or bivouac. (For bivouac, maintenance vehicles should be on opposite flank.)

c. When all elements are in position, the adjutant so reports to the commanding officer. After receiving the report, the commanding officer directs the troops to prepare for inspection.

■ 49. FORMATIONS.—*a.* If space permits, a satisfactory formation for an inspection with vehicles is column of companies, companies in line; distance between companies, 25 yards. Shelter tents are pitched 5 yards in front of and facing the vehicles. Command vehicles and motorcycles are on the right

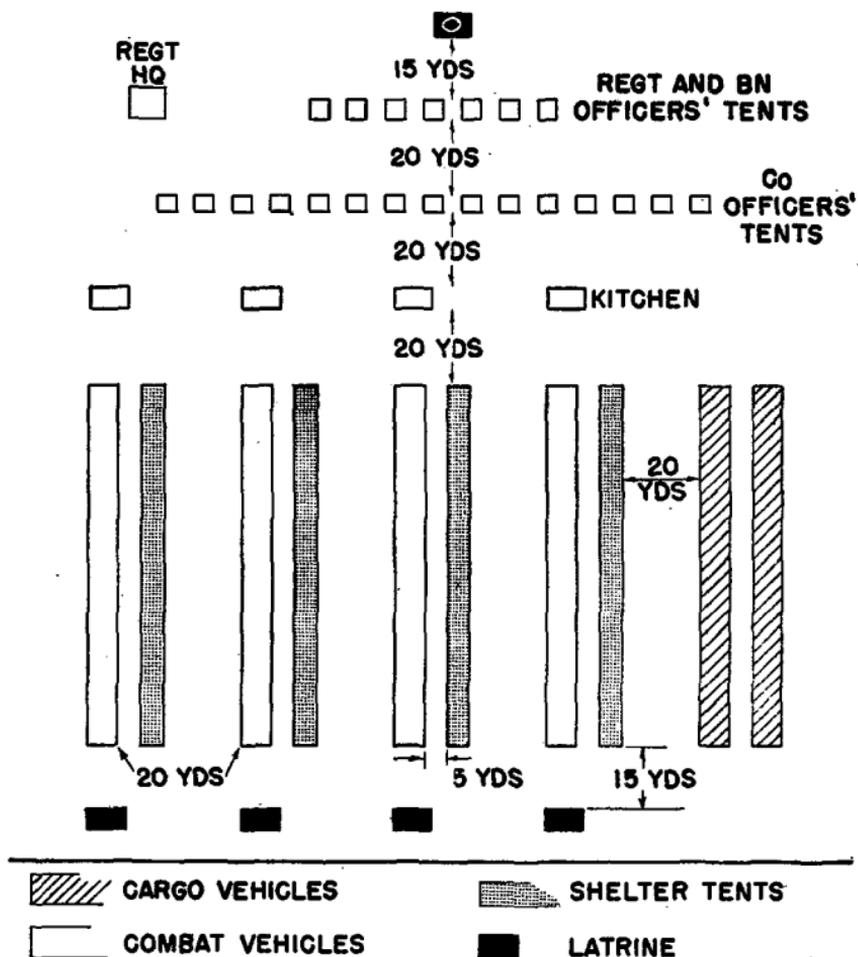


FIGURE 49.—Possible formation for full field inspection or bivouac (not under campaign conditions).

of the line. Company kitchen, maintenance, and cargo trucks are placed to the left of the company line, as are the officers' tents and officers' latrines. Latrines for the enlisted men are placed to the right of the lines. (See fig. 48.)

b. Line of masses or column of masses may be used. Personnel are formed in front of their vehicles as for a mounted ceremony.

■ 50. FIELD INSPECTION.—Vehicle tools are displayed directly in front of vehicles, equipment boxes are opened, and supply

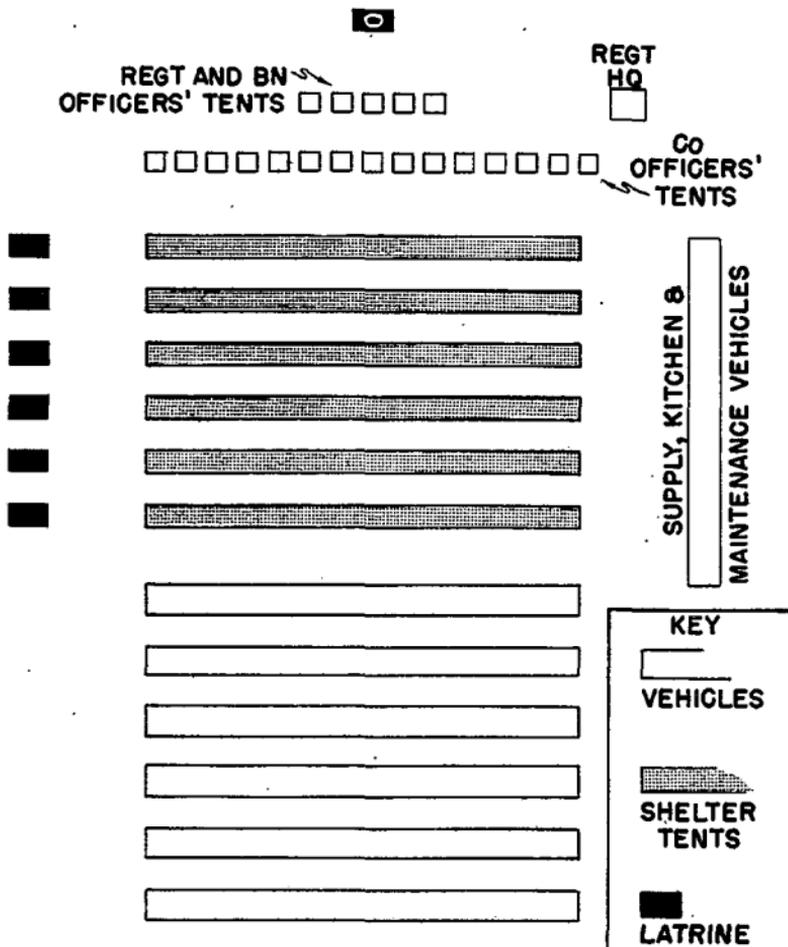


FIGURE 50.—Possible formation for full field inspection.

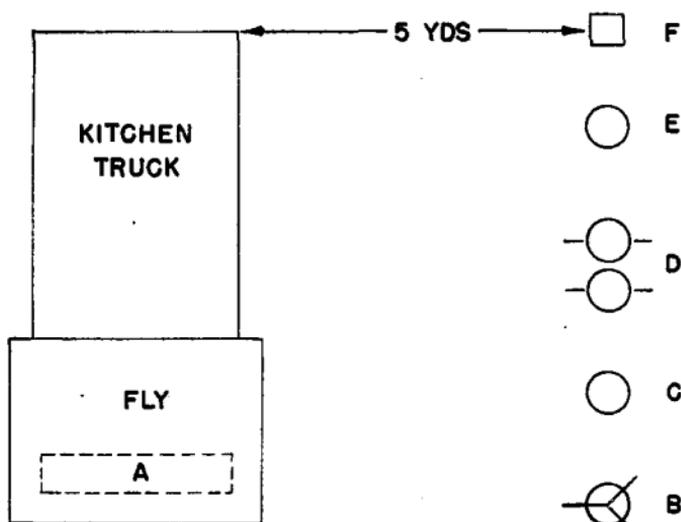
vehicle canvas covers are in place. Personal equipment is removed from vehicles in case shelter tents are to be pitched and inspected.

a. Motorcycles may be grouped.

b. Hoods are raised and engine compartments opened.

c. Weapons mounted on vehicles remain on the vehicle; individual weapons are with the men to whom issued.

d. Cargo trucks are unloaded and contents displayed as directed by the regimental commander. Kitchen equipment is displayed in accordance with regimental instructions (see fig. 51). The kitchen fly is pitched directly behind the kitchen truck, and additional equipment not shown in diagram is placed under the kitchen fly and in the kitchen truck.



LEGEND

- A SERVING TABLE
- B LISTER BAG
- C GARBAGE PIT
- D HOT WATER
- E GREASE PIT
- F FUEL (IF REQUIRED)

FIGURE 51.—Display of kitchen and equipment, full field inspection.

e. The shelter tent lines may be grouped and pitched in designated lines in front of the vehicles (see fig. 50). The open ends of tents should face the vehicles. Lines to a flank may be designated in case of column of masses. For position of men after equipment is displayed, see FM 21-15.

f. Company officers' tents are erected facing their respective company streets approximately 20 yards from the enlisted men's tents. Regimental and battalion officers' tents are pitched on a line generally 20 yards in rear of the company officers' line. Latrines are placed at a convenient distance from the troops and officers' lines and about 100 yards from the kitchens. (See figs. 48 and 49.)

g. Garbage pits are dug and used as directed. If dug, latrines and pits must be carefully marked and labeled as soon as closed.

■ 51. **STANDARDS AND GUIDONS.**—Standards are placed in front of the commanding officer's tent and guidons are placed in front of the organization commanders' tents (right front edge of organization commander's tent).

■ 52. **BAND.**—If a band is present for the inspection, it forms at the head of the unit and plays during inspection.

INDEX

	Paragraph	Page
Armored infantry formations-----	14	35
Assemble, to-----	14	35
Authorized formations-----	14	35
Band-----	29, 52	67, 81
Base-----	9	31
Ceremonies:		
Dismounted-----	24	66
Escort-----	46	75
Change in direction-----	12	33
Column of—		
Battalions-----	14	35
Companies-----	14	35
Masses-----	14	35
Platoons-----	14	35
Sections-----	14	35
Wedges-----	14	35
Column of vehicles, review-----	36	72
Commander of troops-----	37	73
Commands-----	3	4
Company, to form dismounted-----	20	62
Definitions-----	2	1
Diamond formation-----	15	54
Direction, changes-----	12	33
Dismounted ceremonies-----	24	66
Dismounted drill-----	1	1
Disperse, to-----	14	35
Distance-----	10	32
Echelon-----	2, 14	1, 35
Escort, funeral-----	47	76
Escort ceremonies-----	46	75
Escort of honor-----	42	74
Formation-----	43	75
Escorts of the standard-----	42	74
Extra vehicles-----	17	56
Field inspections-----	50	79
Flank, movement to-----	14	35
Formations:		
Authorized-----	14	35
Diamond-----	15	54
For escort of honor-----	43	75
Initial-----	31	69
Inspection-----	49	78
Methods of assuming-----	13	33
Front into line-----	14	35
Funeral escorts-----	47	76
Guidons, stands and-----	37, 51	73, 81
Honor, escort of-----	42	74
Initial formations-----	31	69

INDEX

	Paragraph	Page
Inspection formations -----	49	78
Inspections, field -----	50	79
Instructions for occupants of vehicles -----	5, 6	29
Interphone system -----	4	6
Intervals -----	10	32
Inverted wedge -----	2, 14	1, 35
Leader -----	8	31
Leader, to follow -----	14	35
Line of—		
Battalions -----	14	35
Companies -----	14	35
Masses -----	14	35
Platoons -----	14	35
Sections -----	14	35
Wedges -----	14	35
Mass -----	2, 14	1, 35
Motorcycles -----	16	54
Mounted drill -----	1	1
Mounted reviews, personnel at -----	30	67
Movement to flank or rear -----	14	35
Occupants of vehicles, instruction for -----	5, 6	29
Officer, reviewing -----	32	69
Parade, street -----	41	74
Pass in review, to -----	33	70
Personnel:		
At mounted reviews -----	30	67
Position of vehicular -----	6	29
Platoon:		
Inverted wedge -----	14	35
To form dismounted -----	19	59
Platoon echelon -----	14	35
Platoon wedge -----	14	35
Positions of vehicular personnel -----	6	29
Preparation for reviews -----	28	67
Pyrotechnics -----	4	6
Rally, to -----	14	35
Rear, movement to -----	14	35
Review in column of vehicles -----	36	72
Reviewing officer -----	32	69
Reviews:		
Preparation -----	28	67
Road -----	35	71
Speed -----	15	54
Termination -----	39	73
To pass in -----	33	69
Road reviews -----	35	71
Signals -----	4	6
Speed -----	11	32
Speed for reviews -----	34	71
Standard, escorts of the -----	42	74
Standards and guldons -----	37, 51	73, 81
Street parades -----	41	74

INDEX

	Paragraph	Page
Termination of review.....	39	73
Troops, commander.....	27	66
Vehicles:		
Extra.....	17	56
Inspection.....	10	32
Instructions for occupants.....	5, 6	29
Wedge.....	2, 14	2, 35

