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Circular: Headquarters, U.S. Forces, March 26, 186?

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HEAD-QUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,

PORT HUDSON, LA., March 26, 1861.

CIRCULAR:

The following explanations and instructions for the form of Guard Mounting will be strictly adhered to in this Command.

I. At the 1st call each detail will assemble in the company street and, having been inspected by the 1st Sergeant under the superintendence of an officer, the 1st Sergeant will face the detail to the right in two ranks, the Sergeants and Corporals in the rank of file closers and command "*Support Arms.*" When the music commences the 1st Sergeant will march out the detail.

II. The first detail which arrives will march upon the Sergeant Major, who will first place himself at the point where the right of the guard is to rest. He will, as soon as the first detail halts, place himself two paces in advance of that point, faced to the left.

III. The first detail having arrived at the point indicated, the Sergeant will command: "*Detail—Halt—Front. To the rear open order—March—Supernumeraries fall out (if any)—Right Dress—Front*" face to the Sergeant Major, salute and report—"Such Company detail all present" or as the case may be. The Sergeant Major will return the salute and the 1st Sergeant take his post two paces in the rear of the supernumeraries, passing by the left of the details. At the order "*Supernumeraries fall out*" the supernumeraries will take their post five paces in rear of the file closers.

IV. When all the details are thus formed, the Sergeant Major will draw his sword and command: "*Guard—Right—Dress.*" Seeing the ranks aligned, he will take post two paces on the right of the front rank, salute, and report, "*Sir, the Guard is formed.*" The Adjutant will return the salute and reply: "*To your Post.*" The Sergeant Major passing between the ranks will equalize them if necessary, indicate the division of platoons, and take his post two paces on the left. The Adjutant will draw his sword and command: "*Front*" At this the Officer of the Guard who will be standing at ease near the right will draw his sword, and all officers will take post as prescribed in Regulations.

V. On all reviews, the subdivisions, having wheeled to the right, will be halted by their chiefs and dressed to the left, before the order: "*Pass in review,*" &c., from the commanding officer.

VI. When the Guard passes in review the 1st Sergeants and supernumeraries will stand fast at ordered arms, until the column has passed the Officer of the Day. When the Guard marches off by a flank, they will so stand until the guard has cleared their whole front.

VII. Where the ground will permit, the new Guard will be marched past the old Guard in column by platoon, with the guides right, as at review. Having so passed, the officer will command: "*By the right flank, by file left—March,*" and, the last file having wheeled, will add "*Guard—Halt—Front.*" He will then place himself on a line with, and four paces from the front rank of the old guard and command "*Left backward, Dress—Front—Present Arms,*" and other orders and dispositions will follow as prescribed.

VIII. The relief on post having come in, the officer of the old guard will, where the ground permits, march it four paces to the front, wheel into column by platoon, and the subdivisions being aligned, will command—"Column forward—Guide right—March," and pass the new guard as at review. Having so passed he will command "*Guide left,*" and march to the parade where the Guard is to be dismissed. He will then call out the details in succession, who will be marched by their non-commissioned officers, or a private if necessary, by a flank at the support to their company streets and dismissed.

Where the pieces are to be discharged, it will be done before dismissing the Guard, who will afterwards be marched back to the parade and dismissed as above.

IX. This circular will be read on three successive dress parades and copied into each company order book.

By command of Brig. Gen. GEO. L. ANDREWS,

CHAS. B. GASKILL,

Capt. and Act. Asst. Adj. Gen.

Official: