

# 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regimental Cavalry

Training Headquarters

## Cavalry Training Bulletin

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## Proper Methods to Mount and Dismount your Horse:

### Proper position of the trooper:

The trooper is on the left side of the horse next to the jaw. He holds the lead strap with the right hand about 6 inches from the buckle nails pointed down. He will stand at attention with his left hand down by the side, palm out with the little finger along the seam of the pants. If he is under arms his left hand rests on the saber hilt.

### To Mount:

Preparatory Command - "Prepare to Mount"

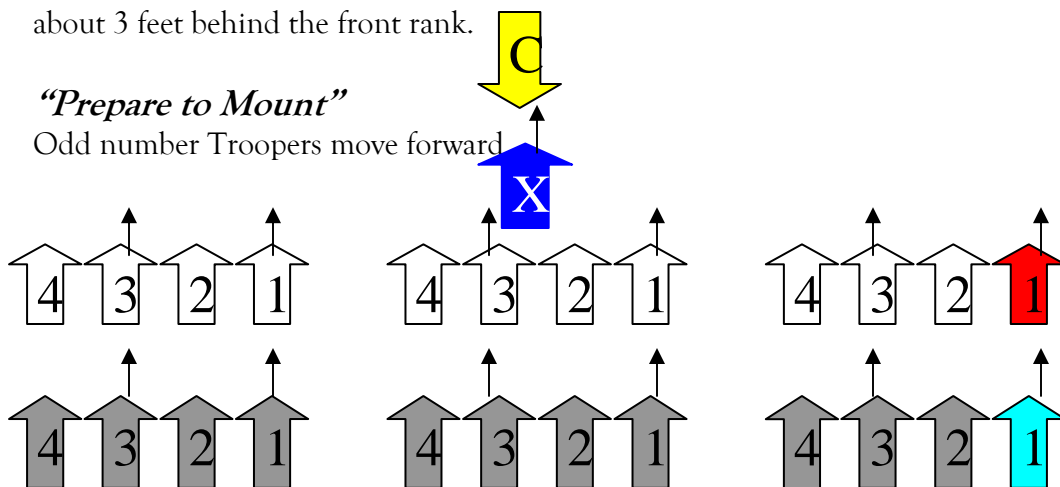
Execution Command - "Mount"

Execution Command - "Form Ranks"

At the command "Prepare to Mount", numbers 1 and 3 (the odd numbers) of each rank moves forward 4 to 6 paces (one horse length) keeping the spacing and intervals the same. The XO will also move forward 4 to 6 paces. The CO will already be mounted. Place the right foot 3 inches behind the left foot and turn  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn to the right. Take two steps and sliding your hand down the lead strap and secure the strap to the saddle ring, picking up the reins in your left hand. Place your left hand on the neck of the horse just forward of the pommel. Place your left foot into the stirrup, using your right hand to assist if needed. Your right hand goes up to the cantle. This is the proper position for "Prepare to Mount". Hold this position till the Execution Command is given.

At the command "Mount" use your right leg to "spring" up supporting your weight with your arms and left foot that is in the stirrup. Bring both legs together, slightly leaning over the saddle, hold this position for a very brief moment then swing their right leg over the horses back and gently lower yourself into the saddle (the idea is that all troopers will rise up at different rates, but will swing into the saddle at the same time). Place the right foot into the stirrup, gently gather up the reins hold the reins with the left hand and the right hand hangs to your side. Center yourself in the saddle, head up, eyes forward, ready for your next command!

At the command "Form Ranks" numbers 2 and 4 (even number Troopers) will walk their horses forward and guide off the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt and Corporal. Once both ranks are in line the rear rank will walk their horses forward to close the rank and stop about 3 feet behind the front rank.









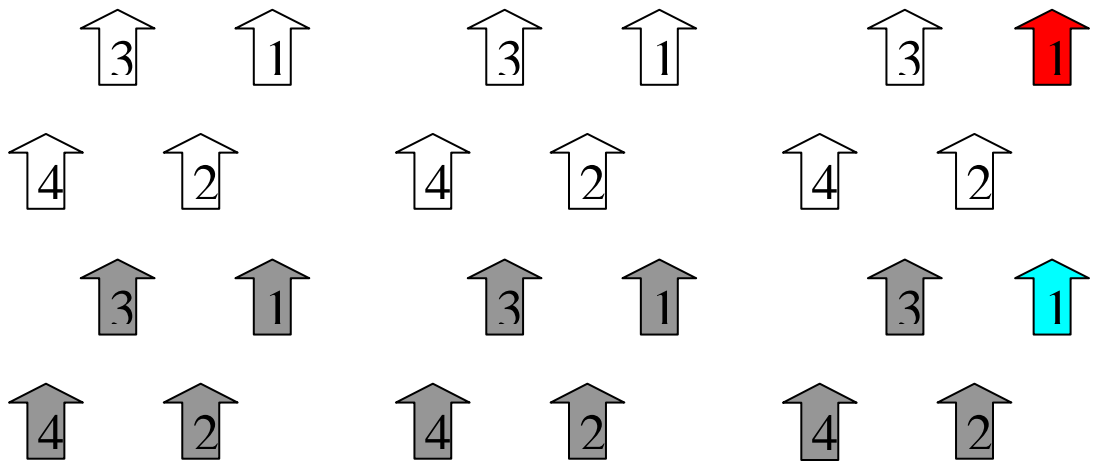
## “Mount”

“Spring” up into position, feet together, then swing your leg over the horses rear and seat yourself into the saddle

This is what we should look like before “Form Ranks”

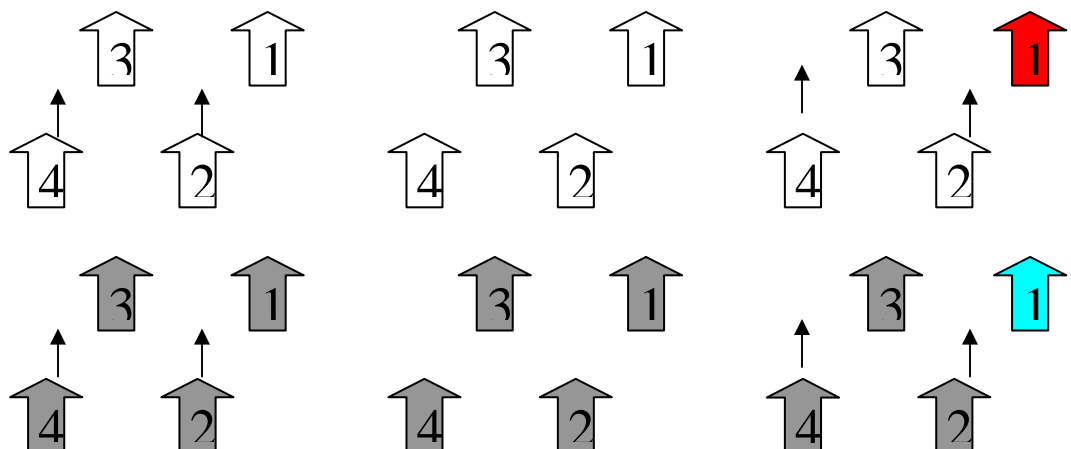
### Symbols

-  Trooper 1<sup>st</sup> Rank
-  Trooper 2<sup>nd</sup> Rank
-  1<sup>st</sup> Sgt
-  Corporal
-  XO
-  CO



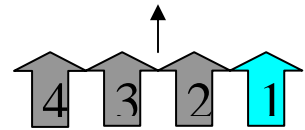
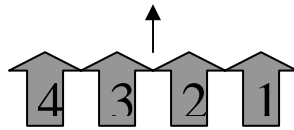
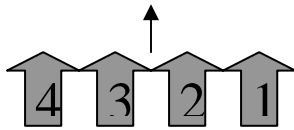
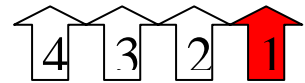
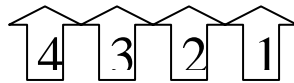
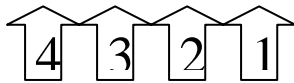
## “Form Ranks”

Even number Troopers move forward

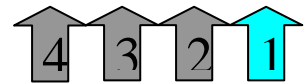
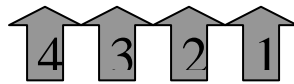
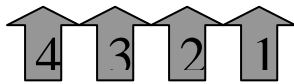
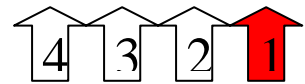
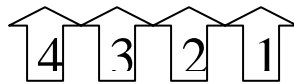
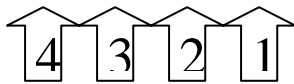




As soon as two ranks are formed  
the second rank moves forward  
leaving one horse space between  
the first rank



Now we are ready to move out, but that is for later!



**To Dismount:**

Preparatory Command - "Prepare to Dismount"

Execution Command - "Dismount"

Execution Command - "Form Ranks"

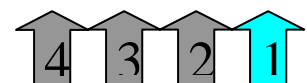
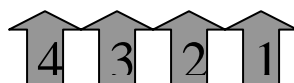
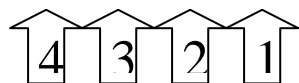
At the command "Prepare to Dismount" the Odd number Troopers of the first rank move forward 4 paces. The Odd number Troopers back up their horses 4 paces, keeping them in line, guiding right. Place you left hand on the neck of the horse and drop your right stirrup. Lean to the left and be ready for the next command.

At the command "Dismount" swing your right leg over the horses rear placing your right hand on the cantle for balance. Bring both feet together and pause for a brief moment then drop down together as a unit. Take your left foot out of the stirrup, placing the reins over the pommel, turn forward and walk to the head of the horse with the lead strap in your right hand. Stand at attention with your hand 6 inches from the halters buckle.

At the command "Form Ranks" the Even numbers of the first rank move forward and guide off the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt, the Odd numbers of the second rank move forward and guide off of the Even numbers.

There should be a 4 to 6 pace gap between the first and second ranks.

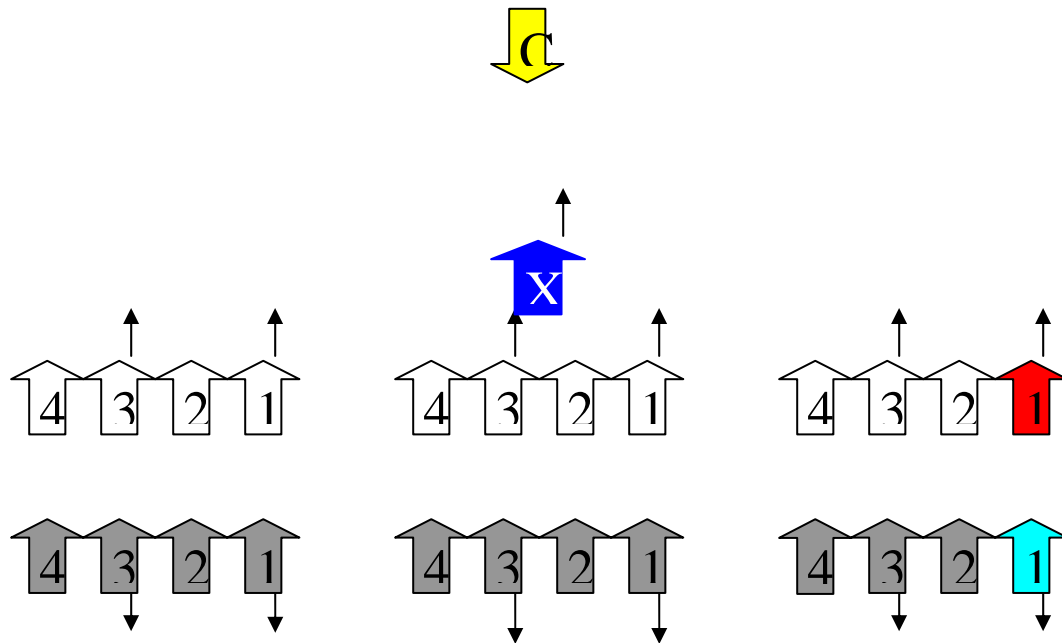
Here you are formed up and ready to dismount...



## *“Prepare to Dismount”*

Odd numbered Troopers of first rank move forward 4 paces.

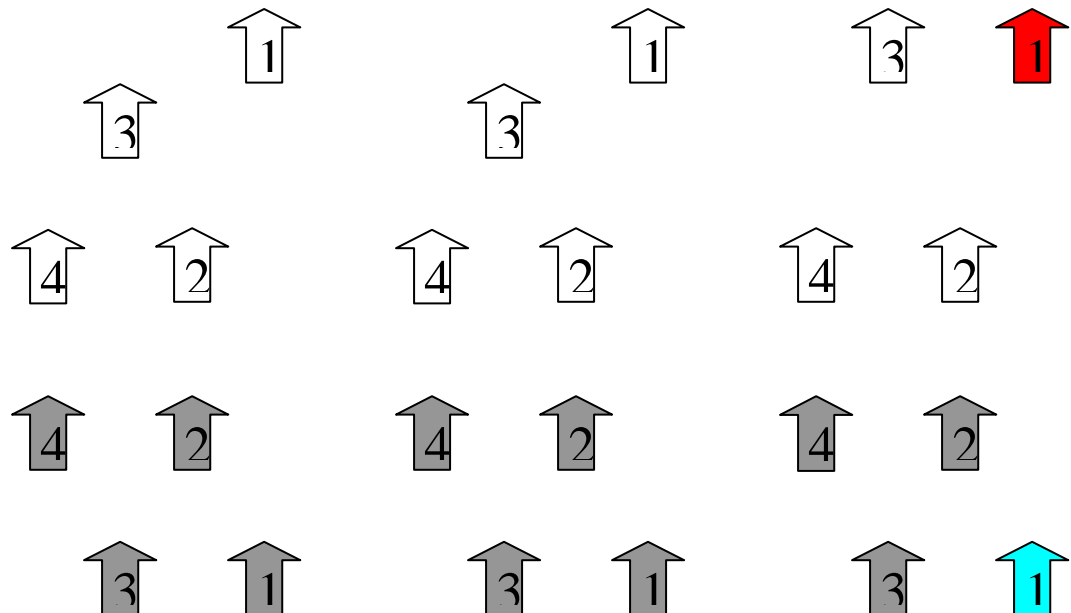
Odd numbered Troopers of rear rank move back 4 paces.



Once you are in the below formation take you right foot out of the stirrup, left hand on horses neck and lean to the left getting ready to dismount.

## *“Dismount”*

Swing your right leg over the horses' rear bring your legs together, lower to the ground place the reins over the pommel, unhook the lead strap, move forward to the head of the horse, stand at attention.

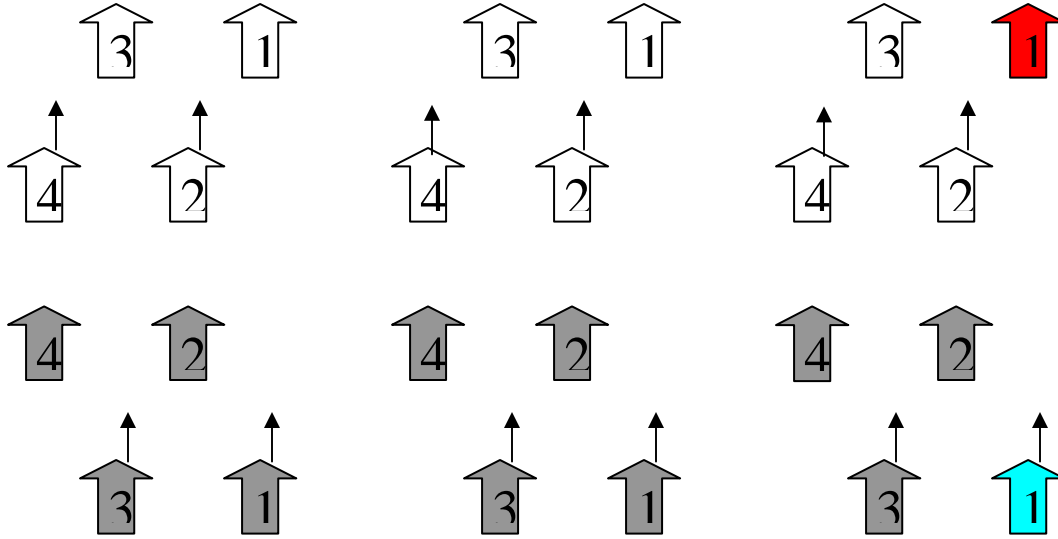


*“Form Ranks”*

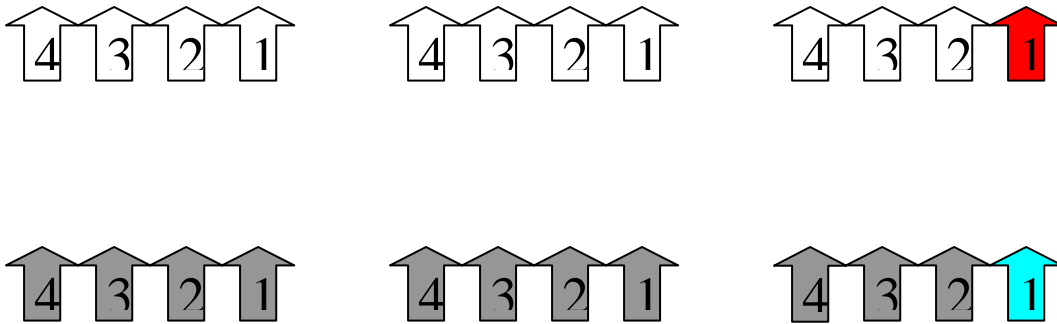


Even Troopers, first rank move forward

Odd Troopers of second rank moves forward, leaving 4 to 6 paces between ranks



Now we are ready to be dismissed



## Filing Off Properly:

Preparatory Command - "File off to the Right (of Left) from the Right (of Left)"

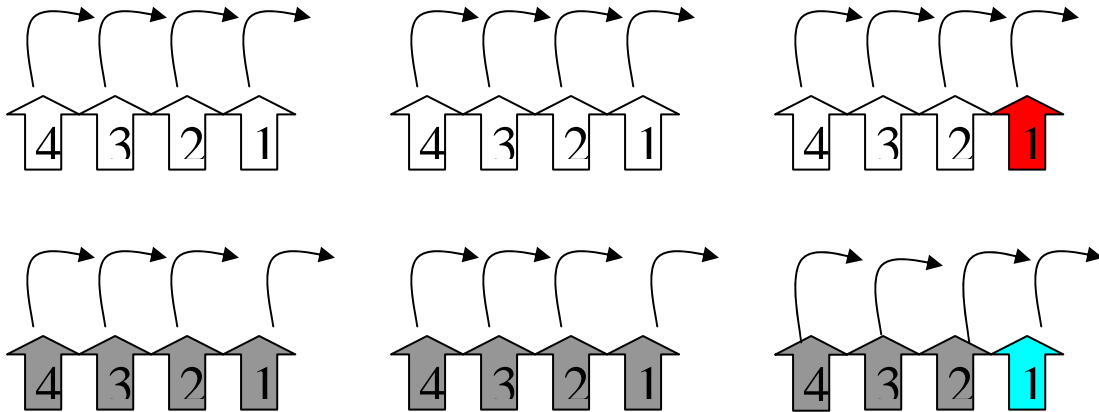
Execution Command - "March"

Filing off with or without a horse is done exactly the same way!

With the Preparatory Command you will know the direction in which you will be moving, the first Squad number 1's move forward 4 paces and then turn in the direction given. As soon as the number 1 has turned, the number 2 troopers moves forward 4 paces and turns, then number 3s, then number 4s. Then squad 2, number 1s, moves forward repeating squad ones movement. Once each trooper clears the assembly area they are free to move out without commands and take care of horses or themselves.

### *"File off to the right from the right"*

First Squad number 1's move forward 4 paces then turns right, when the number 1 troopers has turned the number 2 troopers moves forward 4 paces and turns right, then number 3s and then number 4s, then the second squad number 1s move forward, then 2s, then 3s, then 4s, then squad 3 number 1s move forward, then 2s, then 3s, then 4s...



In the next issue we will cover moving out in formation! Yes we actually do move around!!!