

Forming the Army

Forming the Companies (Company Commanders)

When the Battalion is ordered to form, for exercise or any other occasion, the soldiers are to assemble at their Captain's quarters or the designated place (typically company street) completely armed and accoutered. The subalterns and non-commission officers are to be there at the same time.

As soon as the men are paraded, the Lieutenant (or senior NCO) must form the ranks – which he is to view their arms, ammunition, clothes, and accoutrements, and to see if they are clean and dressed in a soldier-like manner, in order to make a report of each particular to his Captain when he comes to march the Company to the general Parade.

As soon as the inspection is over, the company is to be formed into ranks. Great care should be taken in the sizing of the men before they march to the general parade. The sizing of men, is the placing, as near as possible, those of an equal height into each rank. If we were using three ranks, tallest would be in the front, next tallest in the middle, and shortest in the rear. As we typically only form two ranks – tallest in front. The ranks are to be 12 feet, or 6 paces, from each other. Within the rank, tallest to the right, next tallest to left and so on so that the shortest is in the center (the far right of the second rank should be shorter than the center of the first rank).

The Captain's post is on the right, the Lieutenant's on the left – each four paces (or eight feet) in front of the men. The sergeants are to the extreme right, in line with the men, the corporals to the left of the sergeants, and the drummers to the left of the corporals. The corporals fall into the ranks at this point. Companies are to march in with their files complete, ordering their odd men, if they have any, to fall in behind the rear rank (assumes 3 ranks). [We won't be worrying about this] At parade, the Sergeant-Major will join them together and place them in files, in the space between the companies, starting from the right until they are all formed.

In preparing to march out to the general parade, the ranks are divided into two divisions. The Captain leads the first (right most) division. The Lieutenant leads the second. The drummers are positioned between the first and second rank of the first division. Firelocks are at the shoulder when marching to parade. The Captain will wheel his company into the appropriate position in the Battalion line (eldest co. to the right, next eldest to the left, etc. within each brigade). [This is “by-the-book” and I have included it for info but for practical purposes it only applies to LARGE companies]

Each Captain is to have a field return, of his company, ready to give the Adjutant, specifying the names of the commissioned officers present or absent, the number of non-commissioned officers and men under arms, the number on duty and where, the

number of sick, number of prisoners, the number absent – and with or without leave, and the number need to completely fill the company. [I will have blank return forms for the Adjutant to distribute ahead of time]

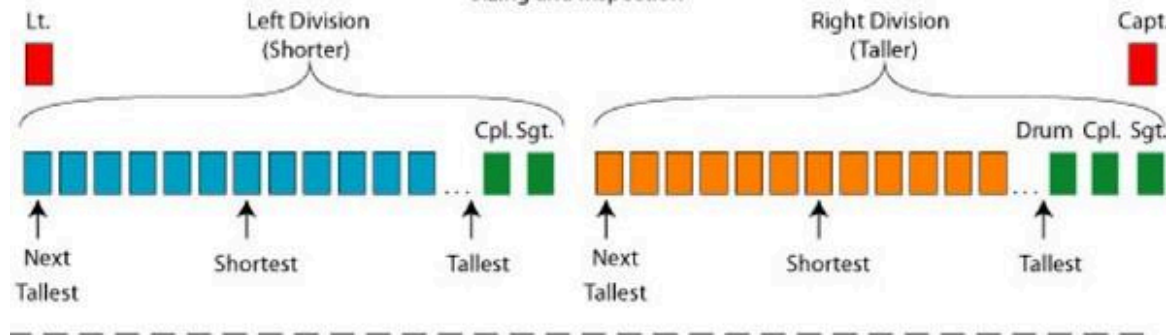
Note: Small and or like companies will be combined at the discretion of the Adjutant and Commanding Officer. Generally, a company will have at least 10 men at arms.

Formation for Marching to Parade

Company Formation for Marching to Parade

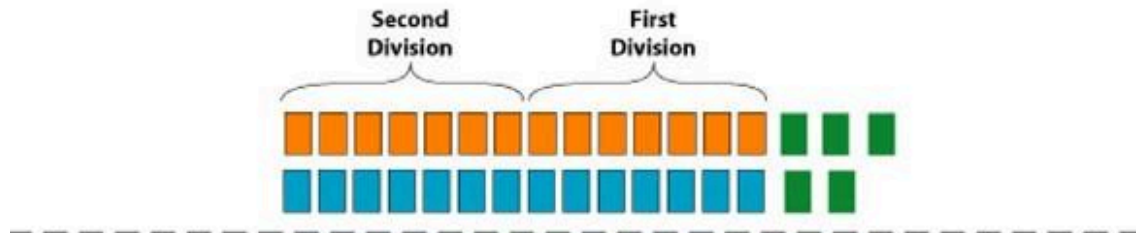
Step One:

Sizing and Inspection



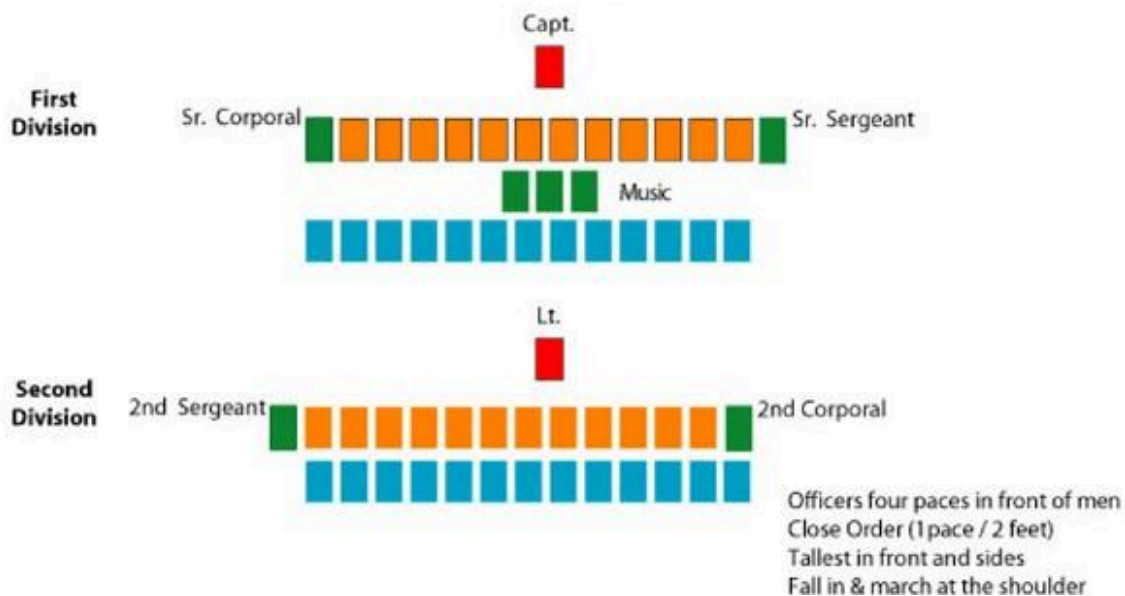
Step Two:

Form Two Ranks and Two Divisions (assuming enough men)



Step Three:

March to Parade by Division



Forming the Brigades and Battalion

Musician's call, 15 minutes prior to "Assembly". For Assembly, Brigades form up on their own ground, then march into position. Officers report to the Parade ground upon Assembly and take their

respective company/brigade positions (based on the order of battle determined and distributed by the Quartermaster).

During formation, all orders will be given to the formed army/battalion by the Adjutant or Sergeant Major (under the direction of the Adjutant) – these orders are not to be repeated by the officers. To prevent any confusion of orders to the army, the Adjutant will precede all orders with, “Crown Forces, ...”

When the companies come to parade, they are to draw up within their brigade based on the order of battle determined and distributed by the Quartermaster . Traditionally this is based on regimental seniority, thus the highest ranking regiment on the right next to the Grenadiers , next senior on the far left, etc. so that the least experienced are in the middle . In actuality, it will be based on how we intend to deploy during the battle. There shall be an interval of two paces (four feet) between companies. The Grenadier-Company draws up to the right of all at ten paces from the Colonel’s Company.

Upon the Company wheeling into line, the drummers are to move out of rank and beating the troop, march forward 12 paces of where the front rank is to halt. At that point they face to the right about (in front of and facing the company) and continue to beat until the officers are at their posts. The Sergeants quit the flanks and form a rank in the rear – four paces from the men. The Captain’s post is four paces distant from the front rank and in the center of the company, facing the company. The Lieutenant’s post is at the right of the Company and the Ensign’s post is on the left of the company (both facing the company). After the officers ensure proper company formation (dress, close order, etc.), they all come to the LEFT-about together.

The Adjutant is then to make each company, one after another, face to the right and close the space between companies. He will at this time receive the field returns from each Captain.

Parading the Colors (Morning formation only)

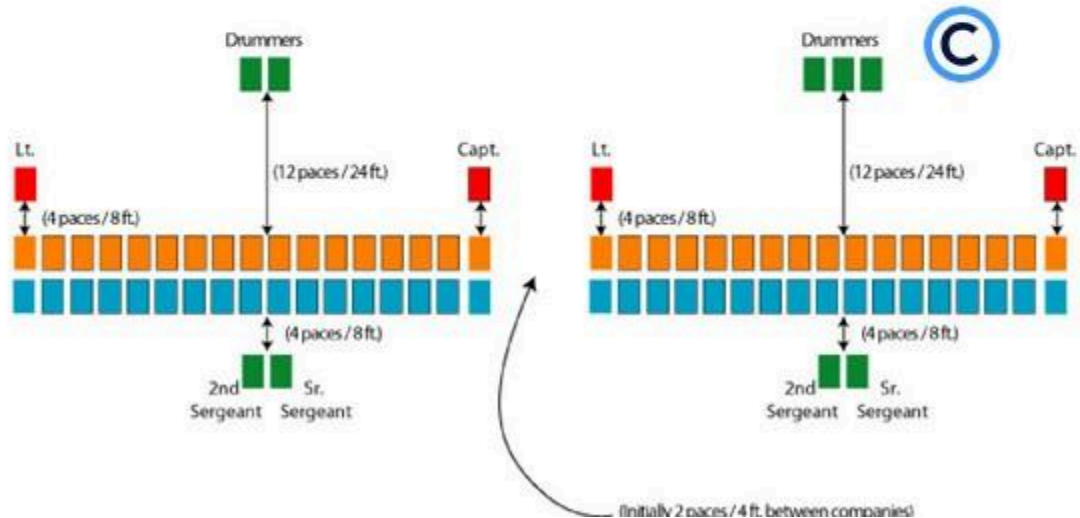
Once the Companies are closed, and the officers have taken their posts, the Adjutant presents the Army/battalion to the Commanding Officer. Then colors are to be sent for.

1. Adjutant will order the battalion to (“Crown Forces, ...”):
 - Fix bayonets (go thru orders for Poise, Rest Upon, Draw, Fix, Poise, Shoulder, Present)
2. As colors approach to the left of the line, Adjutant will order the battalion to “Face to the left”
3. Colors detail will halt at the edge of the line (left flank)
4. Adjutant will order the battalion to “To the right as you were.”[still at Rest]
5. Drummers beat “March” and colors detail advances past the battalion to their post
 - Officers uncover/recover as colors pass them
6. Adjutant will order the battalion to (“Crown Forces, ...”):
 - Shoulder, Un-fix bayonets (Poise, Rest Upon, UnFix, Return, Poise, Shoulder)

Marching to Battle

For any units not marching to battle (example, a detachment of rangers, skirmishers, etc.), the Adjutant will direct the respective Brigade Commander(s) to discharge his detachments. At this point the Commanding Officer will take charge and provide all Battalion commands.

The diagram shows a horizontal line of six grey rectangular blocks representing companies. Above each block is its rank and name: 2 Lt. Colonel's Company, 4 Sr. Captain's Company, 5 Jr. Captain's Company, 3 Major's Company, 1 Colonel's Company, and Grenadier Company. Below the first five blocks, a dashed line indicates a gap with the text "(Initially 2 paces between companies, then close)". Below the last block, a dashed line indicates a gap with the text "(10 paces for Grenadier Company)".



1. Two ranks, properly sized
2. Well and uniformly dressed
3. Arms are clean and unloaded
4. The locks, in particular, are in good order
 1. Good flint, properly secured
 2. Lock/pan is tight to the barrel (no gap to accumulate powder)
 3. Hammer stall in place
 4. Flash guard properly and securely mounted
 5. Half cock position is secure (trigger can't be pulled with normal finger pressure)
 6. Full cock position is secure (hammer doesn't fall when bumped with normal finger pressure)
5. Bayonets fix well
6. Accoutrements properly secured (including canteens WITH water)
7. Proper number of cartridges (as ordered) and in proper cartridge box(es)