

How to Size a Company ... (Taken from Pickering)

- I. The men being assembled, the Sergeants are to draw them up in a single rank, and size them according to the following directions; bidding them order their firelocks as they take their places.
- II. To size a company in a single rank, begin by placing the tallest man on the right, the next tallest next to him on his left, and so on, in a regular descent from the right, till the shortest man is on the left of all. Then count the men, from the right, into odd and even numbers, telling the first man on the right he is an *odd* number, the second he is an *even* number ...
- III. Then give the words (once you have had the men shoulder), *Odd Numbers, advance one pace! March!* On which the odd numbers step forward on pace with the left feet and halt, bringing up the right feet even with the left.
- IV. Then give the words, to the *right* and *left, Face!* Upon which the odd numbers face to the right and the even numbers face to the left.
- V. Then give the word *March!* At which they all step off with the left feet and march, the odd numbers going directly to the right, towards the right-hand man, who is only to keep stepping on his post without advancing: the even numbers march first to the left; but their left-hand man, after stepping one pace to the left, turns to the right, advances one pace, (which brings him in line with the odd numbers) then turns to the right, and follows the odd numbers. The rest of the even numbers, when they respectively come to the ground where their left-hand man stood, proceed exactly as he did, turning to the right, advancing one pace, turning again to the right, and following him.
- VI. As soon as the whole are again in a rank entire, and properly closed, you bid them *Halt!* and then *Front!*, at which word they face to the left to their proper front, and dress. They will now be exactly sized, the tallest men being on the flanks, and the shortest in the center, by a gradual lessening in height from the flanks to the center.

Forming the Company ...

The company being sized, the Sergeants (or one of them) will count the number of men, and tell them off into four divisions, as equal may be. Divisions 1 and 4 shall become the rear rank, and divisions 2 and 3 shall become the front rank. If there is one man out, he should form with either division 2 or 3. An empty file should be left in the back in this case so that there is always a man on each flank of the rear rank.

Note: If forming 3 ranks, the men should be told off into 6 sections.