

## Forward Into Line

Handout revised: 08-27-2004

The battalion marching in a column of companies, will form a line of battle directly in front of the column. The colonel commands:

### Forward into line, By company left half wheel, MARCH. (Colonel)

The 1<sup>st</sup> company will march to the marker that was supposed to be sent out in advance. To the captain of the first company, if there isn't a Lt. Colonel, Major, or Adjutant out there go 15 paces and stop. The second, third, and following companies will do a left wheel for about 45 degrees, pivoting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. The colonel then commands:

### Forward, MARCH. Guide, RIGHT. (Colonel)

The companies will stop wheeling and march forward towards the line set by the first company. The captain may need to command: **Right, TURN** if the company reaches a point where they have to turn and march directly at the line. The captain will halt the company when the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. is 3 paces from the line.

### HALT. (Captain)

If the men are still at an angle to the battle line, they are to step up the line set by the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt, parallel and 3 paces back from the battle line. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. will immediately step out into his position as the left guide. That is one step beyond the established battle line, facing to the right, directly in front of one of the last three men. (Info conflicts here, use the last man). The captain will command:

### Right, DRESS. (Captain)

The men will step up to the battle line, the last man in the company stepping up so his chest touches the right shoulder of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. The captain will move to his normal place on the line. When the men are in the proper alignment, he will command:

### Front. (Captain)

### Support, ARMS. (Captain)

If the battalion is moving to engage an enemy, the colonel may see the need to fire immediately as the companies come onto line. His intention will be made clearly known if that is the case and **is not to be assumed**. **If this is the case, the captains will bring their men on line and dress them before giving the order to fire.** Firing by the file would give some degree of cover while the rest of the battalion comes on line. Guides will step back before the order to fire is given. If no firing is to take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgts remain in the line of guides until the colonel commands:

### Guides, POSTS. (Colonel)

