

Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1874.

(Continued from Page 220.)

APPENDIX NO. 1.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 8.

List of prizes for the annual competition of the New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery for 1874:—

- The Lieutenant Governor, money prize,
- The Provincial Secretary, money prize,
- The Mayor of St. John, money prize,
- The Deputy Adjutant General, Military District No. 8, money prize,
- Mrs. Jago, silver cup and money prize,
- The Officers of Artillery, silver can and money prize,
- Lieut. Colonel Thurgar, silver medal and money prize,
- J. D. Robertson, Esq., merschaum pipe, valued \$25,
- Hilyard & Ruddick, box champagne,
- William Breeze, Esq., box claret.

S. K. FOSTER, Lt. Colonel, &c.

(D)

SAINT JOHN, N. B.,  
Dec. 17th, 1874.

SIR,—On the 21st day of August last, in the absence of Lieut. Colonel Jago, I had the pleasure of being present with you, at your annual inspection of the Field Battery of Artillery, under the command of Captain and Brevet Major Call, in camp for its annual drill, a short distance from the Town of Newcastle.

As that was the first time I had seen the battery, and having been informed that a large number of its present numbers were recruits, and that nearly all the horses were new at the guns, I was quite unprepared for such an exhibition of proficiency in drill as I saw presented. The various field movements were executed in splendid style, and would have been highly creditable to officers and men of much greater experience.

Major Call is an excellent officer, and with the aid of such competent subalterns as Lieutenants Mitchell, Smith and Ramsay, with Surgeon Benson, and such a superior class of non commissioned officers and men, the battery must hold a high position in the Active Militia of the Dominion.

Accompanied by Brigade Major McCulley, I attended the shot and shell practice at a point about two miles above Newcastle; the practice was very good, as will be seen by the accompanying report. Several handsome prizes, given by the officers and friends of the battery, were competed for, and the Brigade Major and myself were permitted to add to the list.

I made a careful inspection of the guns, limber wagons and stores, and found all in good condition; but the gun carriages, limbers and wagons, are in want of two good coats of paint.

At the request of Major Call, I examined a piece of ground which had been granted by the magistrates of the county, on which a drill shed and the battery accommodations could be erected at a moderate expense. The site is an excellent one, and as the battery is well worthy of every assistance from the Government, I would strongly recommend the subject to its most favorable consideration.

If the Government would supply the battery with riding saddles for the lead and centre off horses, and the new pattern gun carriage, such has those supplied to the

Woodstock Field Battery, the gun detachment would all be mounted, and a reduction of eight wheel horses, and one line of carriages, would be made.

A sufficient amount of ammunition, for all ordinary purposes, can be carried in the gun limber boxes.

In conclusion permit me to say that, to the teaching of Sergeant Hughes, late of the Royal Artillery, is the battery very largely, if not wholly, indebted for its present state of efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

S. K. FOSTER, Lieut. Col.

Com. N. B. B. G. A.

The Deputy Adj. Gen. of Militia,  
Military District No. 8.

(E)

SIR,—Having been appointed Musketry Instructor to the volunteers assembled in "Camp Tilley," near the Town of St. Andrews, in July, 1874, I beg to submit the following report:—

The firing commenced on Thursday, the 2nd day of July, at the local rifle range, situate on the shores of St. Andrews Bay, and was conducted strictly in accordance with the regulations laid down for the guidance of the instructor. Four sets of targets had been provided, and the butts completed and rendered secure to the markers, under my own supervision.

Two companies from the 67th and 71st Battalion, respectively, paraded each morning for target practice, and on arriving at the range, were divided into two squads, when the firing commenced at 200 yards, and continued, without intermission, at the various ranges 200, 400, and 600 yards, until the total 15 rounds, five rounds at each target, had been completed. This generally occurred about noon day, when two additional companies arrived on the ground, and in like manner finished the prescribed practice, thus completing four companies daily.

As the practice continued from day to day, I could not fail to observe that those companies which had greatest opportunities for position and aiming drill, invariably obtained the highest figure of merit, and I can thus speak confidently of the benefits to be derived from said drill. It was my custom to address each company briefly, on arriving at the ground, in regard to the general principles of rifle shooting, and in addition to this I found that by personally instructing each marksman as he came to the firing point, very good results were obtained, and without, in the least, impeding the practice.

The appended recapitulation will show the figure of merit for the brigade, for each battalion, as well as for each company, with such further results of the target practice at "Camp Tilley" as, I trust, may prove satisfactory.

I find by comparing this detailed statement with that of "Camp Woodstock," held on July 1872, the average figure of merit stand thus:—

Camp Tilley.....16 35  
Camp Woodstock.....10 53

I am happy to report that no accident, even of the slightest kind, occurred during the practice of the brigade.

In closing my report, I beg to state my appreciation of the very valuable aid received from the Assistant Instructor, Sergeant John McMullin.

I have the honor to remain,  
Your obedient servant,

THOS. H. HOGG,  
Musketry Instructor, "Camp Tilley."  
To Lt. Col. Maunsell, Deputy Adj. Gen.  
Province of New Brunswick.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 9.

HEADQUARTERS, HALIFAX, N. S.

December 21st, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that the quota of Active Militia required to be furnished from the district under my command, was fixed at 4,284. Under the present regulations reducing the effective strength of corps, the total nominal strength of the force, were the respective corps complete to their established strength as authorized, would be 237 officers, and 3,180 men.

The total actual strength of the force which mustered at the annual drill for 1874-75, was 212 officers, and 2,572 men.

Corps of the established strength of 37 officers and 480 men have been relieved from training this season.

Corps of the established strength of 4 officers and 80 men have been absent from training this season.

The Active Militia in this district consist of the following corps which, at the time of the annual training, turned out as under:—

	Officers.	Men.
Kings County Troop Cavalry.....	5	40
Halifax Light Brigade.....	5	79
1st Brigade Halifax Garrison Art'y	20	243
2nd do do.....	17	226
Lunenburg Bat'y (not trained)...	00	00
Mahone Bay Battery.....	2	39
Ugby Battery.....	2	34
63rd Rifles (Halifax).....	20	229
66th Battalion (Halifax).....	28	328
68th Battalion (Kings County)....	31	350
69th Battalion (Annapolis).....	28	364
72nd Battalion (Annapolis).....	22	240
75th Battalion (Lunenburg)—the company not trained.....	17	192
78th Battalion Highlanders (not trained).....	00	00
Victoria Provisional Battalion....	10	210
Cumberland Provisional Battalion (not trained).....	00	00

The annual drill was performed in accordance with General Orders (14) of 3rd June, 1874, and (15) of 12th June, 1874, as in document A and B herewith enclosed.

Annual inspection reports are also enclosed.

I have honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedt. servant,

J. WIMBURN LAURIE, Col.

Deputy Adj. Gen. Commanding  
Military District No. 9.

The Deputy Adj. Gen. Militia,  
Ottawa.

(A.)

The Halifax Brigade consisting of—  
Halifax Light Battery.—Capt. Graham,  
1st Brigade Halifax Garrison Artillery.—  
Lt. Col. Mitchell,  
2nd Brigade Halifax Garrison Artillery.—  
Lt. Col. MacPherson,  
63rd Rifles.—Lt. Col. Pallister,  
66th Infantry.—Lt. Col. Bremner,  
performed their annual training at brigade headquarters. Owing to various circumstances no brigade drill was performed during the present year, but the force attended one evening brigade parade.

The Light Battery practiced at 1,700 yards range, with their six pounder Armstrongs. The target, a half barrel with flag staff, was shot away early in the day, and as there was none available to replace it, the remainder of the practice was continued on the raft on which it had been placed. It would