

present to instruct the officers and men both in the field movements and evolutions of infantry, and in the complex and multifarious drills and exercises connected with the duties of garrison artillerymen.

Let it not be supposed for a moment that in thus appearing to oppose the views of those who have advocated the abolition of all instruction in infantry duties as regards garrison artillerymen I am insensible to the object they have in view, or that I would place in a secondary position the absolute necessity of devoting the greater part of an artilleryman's time to obtaining an accurate and thorough knowledge of the duties pertaining to his own particular arm of the service. But it is the abuse and not the use of such a course of instruction that it is to be deprecated; and I cannot but think that his Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief exercises a sound and wise discretion in satisfying himself at his own personal inspection that the brigades of Garrison Artillery have a sufficient knowledge of the movements of infantry, to enable them to take part in the ordinary duties of parade; and more particularly to give officers of all ranks such a knowledge of these duties as it is absolutely necessary they should attain, the reports which his Royal Highness receives periodically from the Inspector-General of Artillery being a guarantee to him that they are thoroughly well versed in their special duties as artillerymen, or otherwise, as the case may be.

The Brigade of Garrison Artillery (the 7th) now stationed in this district has been out for infantry drill with the other troops about four times during the past summer. They were inspected by his Royal Highness on the 15th ult., on which occasion he was pleased to express himself as not only well satisfied, but much pleased with their appearance in the field when acting as a battalion of infantry, which most desirable result may, I think, fairly be attributed to the use, and not the abuse, of thus employing them, they having been at the same time as fully instructed in their special artillery duties as the circumstances of this garrison will permit.

With a view to insure all officers of artillery attaining a knowledge of infantry evolutions I would advocate their being all posted to garrison brigades on first obtaining their commissions, and being appointed subsequently to the Horse or Field Artillery at the discretion of his Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, as they evince zeal and attention to their duties and express a desire to be attached to the mounted branches of the service.

To those who advocate the total abolition of infantry drill I would simply ask this question—How are they ever to acquire that knowledge without which they can never efficiently co-operate in combined movements in the field?—

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

E. C. WARDE, Major General,  
Commanding the Woolwich District.  
Woolwich, November 2.

The following letter in reference to the one published by Major General Warde also appeared in the *Times*.

Sir,—The numerous letters on the subject of Garrison Artillery lately published in your columns were becoming almost monotonous in their general agreement as to facts and sentiments. They expressed the opinions of the bulk of the Royal Regiment of Artillery officers and men. But there are,

doubtless some officers who differ from the general feeling, and they could not have found a more able advocate, nor one more universally respected, than Major-General Warde, whose letter appears in the *Times* of this morning. The spirit of General Warde's remarks, and the terms in which they are couched, are such as should and do prevail where true military brotherhood exists, and all, whatever their difference of opinion, are working for a common end, the real good of the service. There is only one remark which might have been omitted. General Warde knows why the communications addressed to you were anonymous as far as the public is concerned. But it must not be supposed that there is any shrinking from open expression of opinion by word of mouth, nor that the numerous officers who have signified their adhesion to the principles late enunciated are otherwise than ready to defend them at every opportunity.

General Warde's arguments are directed to the proof of two positions. First, that artillerymen have time to learn their own work thoroughly and infantry brigade drill also. Secondly, that artillery officers would be unable to attain a sufficient knowledge of general manoeuvres if they had no opportunities of practising infantry movements with their own men.

Now it must not be supposed that the recent improvements in the power of artillery have brought it with them no difficulties. The powerful rifled guns of the present day are not to be treated with the ease and roughness as the old 24 and 32 pounders. Much more knowledge is demanded from the officer, much more practice and familiarity with machinery from the men. Again, the proportion of artillerymen to guns in British fortresses is so small that each gunner may, and probably will, be called upon at sometime or other to act as instructor to the infantry upon whose hands the actual working of the piece will devolve. The efficiency of a piece of artillery depends on the order in which it is kept, and the care of rifled guns and elaborate carriages is a business requiring both time and knowledge. It is not only important, but highly necessary. Yet if we turn to the "Standing Orders and Dress Regulations" for the Royal Artillery, pages 103 and 104, we find that recruits are to have 150 hours in the year devoted to infantry drill, 98 hours to heavy rifled ordnance, seven of which only are to be spent in gun drill. Duty men have 45 hours infantry drill, 29 hours heavy rifled ordnance; and when we consider the number of hours spent on parade and on guard (all of which should be added to the infantry work), the winter marches under arms, the field days and grand reviews, the disproportion becomes something quite astonishing. Woolwich must not be taken as a sample artillery garrison. It is not a fortress. There are no batteries of heavy guns, no magazines nor stores in charge of the garrison artillery. Woolwich is simply a place of instruction, and yet there is not a single piece of heavy muzzle-loading rifled ordnance in the Royal Military Repository, where the men are taught their artillery duties. This is neither General Warde's fault nor his desire. It is the natural fruit of the system.

General Warde quotes his old Malta experiences, and though in one sense I must remain anonymous, he and all those who wish to penetrate my disguise will know me by what I am about to say. During that anxious 1859, when England awoke and was almost panic-stricken to find that her fortresses needed re-arming, while

French Generals were sailing to and fro in the Mediterranean, uttering big threats that Malta would soon change hands, I was the executive officer who, under General Warde, had most to do with the arrangements of the work of re-arming Malta. We were all led to believe that the greatest danger was to be apprehended. Officers and men worked splendidly, and attained such a perfect knowledge in the handling of heavy guns as would have stood them in good stead in the expected siege. But the gunners had no infantry drill except the one fortnightly field day mentioned in General Warde's letter, and even then I used occasionally to be permitted to steal some of the men from the adjutant, and send them to more congenial work. There was no grumbling, but rather a great access of professional pride in work done. I myself laboured day and night, wet and dry, and was well recompensed by the generous order issued by General Warde on my departure from the garrison to England, where I was called to occupy another position. The result of excessive work and exposure broke me down as soon as the excitement was over, and during the ten months that elapsed before I was able to walk again General Warde's order was worth all the medicine in the world to me. His frank confidence at the time, and his kindly appreciation afterwards, have left behind a sense of the deepest respect, and even affection. Yet in this matter it is impossible not to differ with him, unless, as I hope, his letter means to say that while the use of a certain amount of infantry drill might be good, there is far more commonly an abuse of it.

With regard to General Warde's second position, it might be sufficient to say that artillery officers have all been taught infantry battalion-drill, as cadets at the Royal Military Academy, and that they have frequent opportunities of studying it afterwards at reviews. But there are two other means by which such knowledge may be most thoroughly acquired—more thoroughly, indeed, than by the present system, yet without taking the gunners from the care of their guns. The Colonel Fisher named by General Warde was afterwards Chief Instructor at Shoeburyness, where he taught battalion movements by rope-drill. Rope-drill is to real battalion manoeuvres just what the drawings and calculations of an engineer are to the building of his bridge. The head must know how to design and command; the execution of the hands is another and simpler business. But if it be granted that Royal Artillery officers must have practice with actual battalions, there is no reason why they should not, like the officers from the Staff College, be attached to Line regiments for a few days before promotion. You have only to demand such proficiency from them as is really useful, and it will be attained without sacrifice of the men's time. The first study of an artillery private should be artillery work. At present his first study is infantry drill. The wrongness of this is deeply felt throughout the regiment, and there can be no doubt that the right will prevail in the counsels of the Commander-in-Chief since the attention of his Royal Highness has been called to the subject.

Few of the non-professional world have any idea how much it costs military men to speak out on these subjects, nor how much they risk. Notoriety cannot be gained where the name is withheld. By the military authorities my *incognito* will be easily penetrable. To the public I would only be

A VOICE.