

of Hamilton during the three weeks' campaign of June, 1866. Being a Briton, I suppose I have a Briton's right to grumble, and you will please excuse me if I take advantage and growl a little at things in general.

*To commence, then, at the beginning, we were roused by ringing of fire-bells and firing of cannon at about 6 a.m., on the morning of Friday, June 1st, 1866. On assembling at the Drill-shed, we found that the Fenians had crossed in considerable numbers during the night, and that we were to go off to meet them, and to accomplish this we set off on the cars at about 10 o'clock, our destination being unknown, but supposed to be somewhere about Port Erie. Most of us had a hasty breakfast before we left, but a few had not. At about 3 p.m. we arrived at Dunnville, on the Grand Trunk Railway, and were there billeted for the night, and enjoyed a pretty good dinner at our respective billets. At about 6 p.m. the alarm sounded, and in a very short space of time we were again on the cars, en route for Port Colborne, or somewhere in that direction. On arriving at Port Colborne, at about 9 o'clock, we found the Queen's Own, of Toronto, already there. They being billeted on the village, getting anything to eat was out of the question, so we made ourselves as comfortable as possible on the cars all night. In the morning, owing to the indefatigable exertions of our gallant Major, our present Colonel, we obtained a slight quantity of food—about a loaf of bread between four or five, a red herring, and a biscuit or two. About 4 o'clock a.m. we left for Ridgeway, and there took part in the short conflict known as the skirmish of Lime Ridge. As there are a number of opinions about "that fight," I will pass it over. However, we came back to Port Colborne, and took possession of a school-house as a temporary barracks, where we tried to make ourselves comfortable for the night, and snatch a few hours' sleep, not having had any of any consequence since Thursday night. About 12, midnight, we were roused out, but soon dismissed, having been warned that we would have to assemble again at 3 a.m. At 3 accordingly we again fell in. By this time a detachment of ladies and gentlemen from Hamilton had arrived, bringing with them a supply of creature comforts in the way of bread and meat and tea and coffee. These were served out to us as we stood, being, for the most part, the first food since dinner at Dunnville the afternoon previous, with the exception of the bread and herring before mentioned.

The Queen's own, and other Volunteers, who came pouring in from all directions, left for the scene of action of the day previous, and we were left to garrison Port Colborne.

As I said before, we were quartered in a school-house—not a very large one—to the number of 350 men of all ranks. The desks and seats had not been removed, and they occupied about half of the available space. To one wing was allotted the upper part, and to the other the ground flat. One blanket per man was served out. On Sunday afternoon we were served out with a ration of bread and meat and coffee. For a couple or more days midnight alarms were the order, we being roused

from a broken rest on the soft side of a plank, for a bed was out of the question, and fallen in outside, and being under arms for a few minutes, we were then dismissed, and again tried to sleep. This was the caprice of some one, I cannot say who, as there was really no necessity for it; and I do not think that regular soldiers were ever treated in that fashion.

Port Colborne, as some of your readers may know, is a very low, marshy place, the soil being mostly a peat bog, and our barracks was erected on probably the most marshy spot in the locality. The parade ground was a small piece of ground in front of the school-house, and consequently a very shaky place, the vibration of the earth being quite perceptible at a distance of 100 yards from the parade.

As to washing accommodations, which are very necessary to a soldier, particularly to those situated as we were—having to sleep in our clothes and on the floor. There was, of course, the lake; but as that was a considerable distance from the barracks, we had to perform our ablutions in a small stream in front of our quarters, about three feet in width, and two to three inches in depth. Of course, in a very short time it became very dirty, as the fall was barely sufficient to carry off the water. We, however, occasionally had a bathing parade, which in some measure made up for the deficiency of water.

Then, as to messing, we messed by companies in the open air, on tables constructed of boards, which we confiscated to our use for the time being. In this particular, no change for the better was made during our stay. For provisions we had salt pork—not too lean—and bread, with occasionally potatoes, and for the first two or three days a glass of beer per man. Latterly we had fresh meat and butter for our bread; this was for dinner. For breakfast and supper we had to content ourselves with bread and tea or coffee.

As to guards, &c.; that was what we felt most, and about which we had really good cause to grumble. On Monday or Tuesday, 4th or 5th, we were reinforced by the Ottawa and Greenwood companies of Volunteers, who were billeted on the town, and who, together with the gallant Welland Field Battery, raised our effective force to about 400 men fit for service; a number being in hospital from the combined effects of fatigue, diarrhoea, and other kindred complaints, brought on by the semi-barbarous mode of living, and the miasmatic influences of the locality; but of this force we had to furnish, on an average, between 90 and 100 men for guard each day, and a picket of 50 men every night. The picket was fallen in at about 3 o'clock in the evening, and sent off to scour the woods in all directions, at times up to their knees in mud or slush. It would return at about 3 p.m. To give an idea of how often one's turn came for guard, let me cite my own case, which was by no means an exceptional one. I was put on at 10 o'clock in the morning, and came off at 10 next morning; I attended the various parades with the exception of the Adjutant's, and was warned for picket that night; next morning warned for guard again. This happened to me twice, and to many three or four times. In addition to this, the usual routine of fatigues, navvying, &c., which every soldier knows all about. So much for guard duty.

Roll sounded at three a.m. Having fallen in, roll was called, and we shivered for an hour or more, and were then dismissed. The parades during the day were as follows:—1st, parade at rouse; 2nd, Adjutant's parade, at 10 a.m.; 3rd, Commanding Officers' parade, at 2 p.m.; occasionally a bathing parade and roll call at 7 p.

m. We were ordered to sleep in our clothes and accoutrements, and our rifles beside us, so as to be ready at a moment's notice—and the greater proportion did so.

About the last week of our stay some tents were erected for our accommodation, which, to some extent, relieved the overcrowding of the barracks, and were a much more pleasant sleeping apartment.

We were, for the greater part of the time, confined to barracks, but latterly one wing was allowed out in the morning after parade, and the other in the afternoon.

I have tried, Mr. Editor, to lay before your readers a short account of how we fared. If any other battalion or company underwent as many hardships or did such heavy duty, I think (always desiring to your judgment) we would like to have a similar account.

Apologising for occupying so much of your valuable space, and wishing you and your paper every success,

I remain, yours truly,
D. E. N

To the Editor of The Volunteer Review.

OTTAWA, 28th Feb., 1867.

MR. EDITOR,—It was with melancholy pleasure that I yesterday witnessed the funeral of a gunner of No. 2 Battery, Provisional Brigade or Garrison Artillery. The men composing the firing-party were most soldier-like in appearance, and the remainder of the funeral cortege, composed of members of the Field Battery, Garrison Batteries and Civil Service Rifle Regiment, were to be commended for their really good appearance as Volunteer soldiers. Of course the officers of No. 2 Battery were present, and much to their credit, the officers of No. 3 and 4 Batteries assisted in paying respect to the memory of a worthy and good man, although simply a gunner. Much surprise and comment have arisen from the absence of the commanding Officer of the Brigade, many thinking that his presence at the funeral of his first gunner, who has died in the Brigade, would not have tarnished the laurels he has won during his seven months' campaign in Prescott.

I remain, Mr. Editor,
Your obed't serv't,
A VETERAN.

SNOW-SHOEING.—On Monday morning inst., about 150 men of the 100th Regiment, with nearly all the officers at headquarters, proceeded down Sussex street (Ottawa) to the wharf of the steamer 'Queen Victoria,' to practice snow-shoeing and judging distances. Many of the men did not know how to fasten on the snow-shoes; but once on, they marched off in a body down the river towards Waterloo village. For novices, they marched exceedingly well, but many a toss occurred on the way, and many a straggler was left behind. After about half an hour's practice at judging distances the troop returned in high spirits, the greater number apparently well pleased with their new drill.

INSPECTION OF THE MOUNT ELGIN RIFLES.—On Tuesday, the 19th inst., the Brigade-Major, Lieut. Col. Richardson, Major Greig, and Instructor Chinner visited Mount Elgin to inspect Captain Heagle's Company. The number was exceedingly creditable, there being fifty men in the ranks. Considering opportunities, the acquirements of this company were highly creditable, but the intense cold of the afternoon rendered platoon movements almost an impossibility. Altogether, the inspecting officers were most agreeably surprised at the respectability of the force, and the attainments reached in so short a time.—[Woodstock Times.]