

In connection with this camp it is also a pleasure to record the increased interest manifested by the citizens of Newcastle, in the welfare of the corps. From the Collector of Customs downward, they seemed to vie with each other in their liberality in giving prizes for good shooting, &c.

No. 7. Battery Garrison Artillery.—Brevet Major Gillespie.

This corps proceeded, its full authorized strength, to the Brigade camp at St. John, and performed the prescribed drill and practice at that place.

73rd Battalion.—Major Shirriff.

This corps performed its annual drill at "Camp Scoudouc," except Nos. 2 and 3 companies which, as a special case, were permitted to drill at local head quarters, and were subsequently inspected by Lieut. Col. Otty, during my temporary absence on leave, and pronounced efficient.

In the retirement of Lieut. Col. Ferguson, the corps has lost the services of a thoroughly practical and energetic commanding officer, one who was ever ready to carry out the "regulations" to the letter, while not neglecting the interests of the battalion. Major Shirriff succeeds to the command.

Dalhousie Infantry Company.—Captain Barrie.

Inspected by the Brigade Major, Lt. Col. McCulley, on the 13th August, and is referred to by that officer, in the tabular report enclosed herewith.

Artillery.

(1.) In submitting the accompanying report from Lieut. Col. Jago, of the Artillery, I desire especially to point out the following subjects, adverted to by that officer, who states—

I cannot help expressing regret that the only two field batteries in this district are both armed with the smooth bore nine pounder gun, a weapon long ago considered unsuited for the support of infantry armed with the Snider Rifle.

(2.) Lieut. Colonel Jago anticipates pernicious effects from the General Orders of August 15, 1874, directing that all uniforms, &c., of volunteers should be returned into their armories after the inspection of the annual drill.

With regard to the working of this order on the country battalions of infantry he does not venture to offer an opinion; but he wishes to call the attention of the Major General Commanding to the fact that a body of artillerymen can never hope to be made effective by 12 days' annual drill in camp only.

For teaching practically the lessons learned by weekly drills in their drill rooms, he considers the time sufficient or as nearly so as can be obtained without a great increase of expense. Further returns of the shot and shell practice forwarded with Col. Foster's report, and with which he has every reason to feel gratified, are the result of the patient weekly drilling of recruits at standing gun drill, pointing drill, fuse and shell instruction, &c., equally with the twelve days in camp.

The men of the different battalions appear also to like the weekly drills, and they were usually fairly attended.

When it is considered drills are all voluntary (the 12 days having been performed,) it appears to him a pity that obstacles should be thrown in the way of the men receiving instructions which cannot fail of at least some good.

Lieut. Col. Jago adds:—"I hardly like to bring again before you the desirability in my opinion of arming the Garrison Artillery with revolvers. With the utter state of defencelessness of the Garrison Artilleryman in case his position is attempted to be carried by storm, we are all aware.

"Whether a battery would not be likely to fight the guns longer when the men had the consciousness of possessing a handy and reliable weapon about their persons admits, I think, of no question, and it appears to me in view of the rapid increase of population in our cities, there might unfortunately come a day when the magistrates would gladly avail themselves of the services of a trained body of men armed with revolvers."

Target Practice.

The annual course of target practice was carried out with good results, under regulations somewhat similar to those published in General Orders (14), 1872; 200, 400 and 600 yards being the ranges, and the targets being the same size as usual, with square bulls eye and centre.

The question as to the desirableness of adopting Wimbledon targets at the annual target practice of the Active Militia is, I think deserving consideration. These targets have been adopted with advantage by our New Brunswick Rifle Association.

It is to be regretted that it is impracticable during the limited period of the annual drill, to have sufficient position and aiming drills to warrant a high "figure of merit" in each corps.

It is also to be regretted that the battalion and company money prizes for the best shots have not been granted this year. As stated in my last report, 1873, the amounts though small, \$10 and \$5 respectively, had been granted for two years in succession, except in the case of the artillery, who received money prizes for shot and shell practice during many years past, and the prizes were closely contested, and when won were much valued, accompanied as they were with badges. I am happy to be enabled to report that no accident has occurred during any course of target practice in my district, the rules framed for the guidance of officers commanding corps to prevent accident having been strictly observed. The accompanying return shows the "figure of merit" and names of best shots in the district.

School of Military Instruction.

The attendance at the Military School, at Fredericton, has been very good, 66 cadets having obtained 2nd class certificates. Of these, 39 belonged to the Active Militia at the time of their admission to the school; some of the others have since joined the force; but five, however, are officers in it.

It is true the majority of the officers of this district are already in possession of certificates of fitness, and the Brigade Major and myself have done all in our power to ensure the attendance at the school of the remainder, pointing out to them the superior advantages of Military School training to that obtained by other means to qualify them for certificates granted by Boards of Examiners.

In the command of the school I have been ably assisted by Lieut. Colonel Otty, Brigade Major, and the quickness with which intelligent and educated cadets mastered what they had to learn is worthy of note, reflecting credit upon themselves and the instructors. I may add that a few cadets remained the full time—90 days—before being enabled to qualify, and one cadet failed to secure the required certificate.

Rifle Associations.

There is but little to add to the remarks submitted in my report for 1873 on this subject.

Lieut. Colonel Beer has been re-elected President of the New Brunswick Provincial Rifle Association, and he is assisted in his duties as such by the same efficient secretary, Capt. and Adjutant O. R. Arnold.

The annual match of this association, held at Sussex during the first week in September last, was as successful as usual.

The county associations continue to improve.

The only thing to be regretted, I conceive, is that in all rifle matches the number of competitors is not, as a rule, in fair proportion to the number of active militiamen in the district.

In fact that but few except "crack shots" consider it worth their while competing.

The following associations held competitions this year, the returns of which will shortly be transmitted:—

New Brunswick Pro. Rifle Association.	
Charlotte County	do
St. John	do
Carleton	do
York	do
Northumberland County	do

I have the honor to be,
Your most obedt. servant,
G. J. MAUNSELL, Lt. Col.
Deputy Adjt. Gen. Com.
Military District, No. 8.

Lt. Colonel W. POWELL,
Deputy Adjt. Gen. Headquarters.

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SAINT JOHN, N.B.
Dec. 22nd, 1874.

Sir,—I have the honor to forward to you the report of Lieut. Col. S. K. Foster, commanding New Brunswick Brigade of Garrison Artillery, on the inspections of the different batteries in the Province for this year.

I have to thank this officer for kindly undertaking this duty for me, and thereby enabling me to enjoy my leave of absence in England.

From the report I gather that the whole of the batteries in the district are in an effective condition, and that the different camps were conducted in a manner that must prove beneficial to officers and men.

I cannot, however, help expressing my regret that the only two field batteries in your district are armed with the smooth bore nine pounder gun, a weapon long ago considered unsuited for the support of infantry armed with the Snider Rifle.

I agree most thoroughly with Col. Foster in the necessity of the gun carriage being painted at stated periods, in order to ensure the preservation of the wood, and I beg to recommend that all gun carriages, which are kept under cover, be painted every two years, and also that carriages exposed to the weather be painted annually.

I cannot, however, omit in this letter, advertent to the pernicious effects I anticipated from the General Orders of August 15, 1874, directing that all uniforms &c., of volunteers, should be returned into their armories after the expiration of the annual drill.

With regard to the working of this order on country battalions of infantry, I do not venture to offer an opinion, but I should wish most, respectfully to call the attention of the Major General Commanding to the fact that a body of artillerymen can never hope