

The Compton Camp.

THE NEW INFANTRY DRILL BOOK.

(Volunteer Service Gazette.)

(Continued from page 197.)

The military representatives of the Eastern Townships have again put in the twelve days drill under canvas, as ordered by the powers that be. It cannot be said to have been an unqualified success; but that is largely the fault of the system under which the brigade camps are maintained—one utterly defective and inadequate to the purposes for which it was instituted. The atrocious weather that prevailed is also responsible for many shortcomings, especially in the prevention of a proper amount of target practice, a most essential feature of the instruction considering that fully fifty per cent of the men in camp were recruits.

The Brigade staff was an excellent one. Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., was in command, assisted by Lieut.-Col. Mattice, as Brigade Major; Lieut.-Col. Pope, Supply Officer; Major Radiger, Musketry Instructor; Surgeon-Major Ives, P.M.O.; Capt. Kemp, Orderly Officer; and Capt. Young.

The Corps composing the camp were:—

Fifth Regiment Cavalry, Lt.-Col Taylor in command; officers and men.....	188
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It is to be regretted that the Artillery branch of the service was not represented in camp, when two field batteries—Richmond and Shefford—exist within the district. We know that the latter is to be drilled under instructions yet to be issued by the Inspector of Artillery; but the existence of the camp gave an excellent opportunity for ascertaining whether the Richmond battery is efficient or useless. The work done by the brigade was confined to squad, company and arm drill, and musketry instruction. No battalion movements were attempted, and guard-mounting and sentry-go practically abolished. This is, we think, a mistake; guard and sentry duties constitute one of the three branches of drill which the Canadian militia would use on active service, to the almost total exclusion of the rest of the Red book. Target practice was carried out to as great an extent as possible, considering the persistent downpour of rain. Luckily the soil is a sandy one and the water was quickly absorbed; had it been otherwise, it is doubtful if much practical instruction of any sort could have been carried out.

The camp broke up on the 2nd inst. The conduct of the men was excellent throughout their stay, and no serious cases of drunkenness or misconduct were apparent.

5. Instructors will explain that natural or artificial objects and undulations of ground, however small, afford protection to the soldier from the enemy's fire, and will practically demonstrate to the recruit how he should make the best use of any cover available.

The move from cover to cover, unless specially ordered to the contrary, must be made in an upright position, in which the movements and signals of the fire unit leader can be most readily observed.

It must be impressed on the recruit that cover is only a means to an end, and that when he has been launched in the attack, he must push forward at all hazards; he must be taught that, when the decisive zone is reached, the chances not only of victory, but of personal safety, are increased by adopting a bold and aggressive attitude.

6. Men in extended order must ever be on the alert for the word of command, bugle sound or signal, and move as soon as they clearly understand the order.

7. The squad will be instructed with arms and will represent the smallest fire unit. Men in extended order will work in single rank.

The regulations for the actual extension, closing, and the movements in extended order, of a squad, are virtually the same as those for "skirmishers" in the old book, with such modifications as are necessary to provide for the extension being always made in single rank. It seems unnecessary to print these regulations. The paragraphs on forming rank entire and for forming files are, of course, omitted, as the rear rank men now always move up abreast of their front rank men when extending, and presumably, always resume their places in rear of them on closing. All reference to "groups" is also omitted. We notice that "when halted, unless directed to kneel down," the men in battle formation will "stand at ease;" but, that, when they close from the halt, they will "stand easy" when they reach their places.

After the squad has been taught to extend, to close, to advance, retire, &c., it is to be instructed in firing, as directed in the "Rifle Exercises." The following regulations are laid down:—

The necessity for fire discipline must be carefully explained to the recruit. Hasty unaimed fire is worse than useless, being a mere waste of ammunition, doing no harm to the enemy, and, on the contrary, encouraging him.

The necessity, therefore, for care in expenditure of ammunition must be thoroughly explained.

At this stage the instructor must be most careful to see that sights are

properly adjusted, and that the rifles are directed upon the named object.

The squad will be exercised in individual and collective fire.

Fire will be delivered from the kneeling or lying down position as ordered, but the latter position is not to be practised at decisive ranges.

A few men will be placed to represent a defending force, and blank ammunition will be used after the first day or two's instruction.

1. *Firing when advancing.*—On the word or bugle sound *Fire*, the extended line will halt, and the selected men, or the entire squad, will open fire in the position, and at the distance and object named by the instructor, who will give the order to advance when the required fire has been delivered.

2. *Firing when retiring.*—The selected men or the entire squad will halt, front, and deliver fire as ordered. If a portion only is ordered to fire, the remainder will continue the retirement, the selected men rejoining the general line as soon as they have delivered their fire.

The remarks upon Cavalry attacks have been re-written, and are now as follows:—

It should be impressed upon the men that on open ground a foot soldier has nothing to fear from a single trooper, and that on broken ground the advantage is on his side, provided he remains calm and collected. It is to be explained that groups of well disciplined infantry on broken ground or with their backs to banks, hedges, &c., may defy relatively larger numbers of Cavalry.

The immediate presence of bodies of Cavalry will demand a closer formation than that of the extended line.

In such cases the men of the fire unit may be ordered to form round their leader. At drill this will be signified by the command *Cavalry*, when the men will double to their leader, form round him, fix bayonets and turn outwards. If ordered to do so, they will practise receiving Cavalry as directed in the *Firing Exercises*.

To be continued.

SECOND LEAGUE MATCH.

In our issue of June 23rd we published the results of the second match, fired on 11th of same month. Since then the following competing teams have been good enough to favour the secretary with the returns of that match: No. 1 Co, R.C.I., 6th Batt. (2 teams), 50th Batt., King's County R.A. (2 teams), and Assiniboia Provincial R.A.