

HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE CANADIAN MILITIA.

I. THE SIXTEENTH "PRINCE EDWARD" BATTALION OF INFANTRY.

IN the fall months of 1862, thirty years ago, two companies of volunteer militia were raised in the town of Picton, in the County of Prince Edward, in the Province of Ontario. The first of these companies was enrolled by Thomas Bog as captain, with Donald Fraser and Charles A. Chapman as subalterns.

The second by J. W. Langmuir as captain, with Thomas McFaul and William J. Hare as subalterns. These two companies were gazetted in G. O. early in January, 1863. Subsequently five other companies were raised, viz., one in the village of Wellington, one in the village of Consecon, two in the village of Milford, and a third company in Picton. Seven companies, the strength of each company was three officers, and fifty-five non-commissioned officers and privates. These seven companies were gazetted in G. O., 6th Febr., 1863, as the 16th Battalion. Walter Ross, M.P., was appointed commanding officer, with rank of Lieut.-Colonel. The following are the names of the company officers as appears from the service rolls at the time:

No. 1 Co., Picton, Captain, Thos. Bog; Lieutenant, Donald Fraser; Ensign, C. A. Chapman.

No. 2 Co., Picton, Captain, J. W. Langmuir; Lieutenant, Thomas McFaul; Ensign, W. J. Hare.

No. 3 Co., Wellington, Captain, W. Patterson; Lieut., E. D. McMahon; Ensign, Elijah Haylock.

No. 4 Co., Consecon, Captain, Ed. Brady; Lieut., Thos-Thurreson; Ensign, G. B. Johnson.

No. 5 Co., Milford, Captain, L. Hudgin; Lieut., John C. Lakes; Ensign, J. H. Ackerman.

No. 6 Co., Milford, Captain, Jas. Cook; Lieut., Donald Ross; Ensign, Ed. Dalmage.

No. 7 Co., Picton, Captain, John H. Allan; Lieut., Walter Mackenzie; Ensign, Fred White.

About the same time two independent companies were formed in the township of Ameliasburgh, one at the village of Roblin's Mills and one at the village of Rednerville, the former under Captain Thomas Lauder, with Nicholas A. Peterson and Royal Hennessy as subalterns; the other under Captain William Anderson, with W. R. Dempsey and James W. Anderson as subalterns.

On the 10th July, 1863, by G. O., Captain Bog was promoted to the Majority of the battalion, Lieut. Fraser succeeding to the Captaincy of No. 1 Company and Ensign C. A. Chapman to Lieutenantcy. John M. Platt, M.D. M.S., was appointed Ensign.

On the 20th July, 1863, a grand review of the whole volunteer force from Kingston, Belleville, Napanee, Trenton, etc., took place in Picton on the heights lying south of the town, known as the "Sulphur Spring Farm" (the same place where the Brigade Camp was held in 1881).

On this occasion the following corps took part, viz.: Kingston Field Battery, Kingston Troop, Napanee Troop, 14th Battalion Rifles, Kingston; 47th Battalion, Frontenac, Colonel Hamilton; 15th Battalion Infantry, Belleville, Colonel Ponton; 48th Battalion Infantry, Napanee; 16th Battalion, Prince Edward, Colonel Ross, and two companies from Ameliasburgh, all under command of Lieut.-Colonel D. Shaw, Brigade Major; Colonel Burrows, R.A. was Inspecting Officer. Colonel Shaw had on his staff the present Minister of Militia, Colonel Bowell, and the present commanding officer of the 49th Hastings Rifles, Colonel James Brown. Her Majesty's 47th Regiment of the line were stationed at Kingston at the time; Colonel Lowry and a number of other officers and men were present.

The review commenced with trooping of the colours, after which the brigade marched past and was then divided into two divisions for a sham fight; just as this commenced rain began to fall, and in a short time came down in torrents, which had the effect of dispersing the spectators, estimated at 10,000. The sham-fight continued till the men got drenched. This was the first review under the new organization of the Volunteer Militia force, and on the whole was a most creditable turn out of our citizen soldiers.

In the winter and spring of 1865, during the American rebellion, a strong force of volunteers was placed on the frontiers of Niagara and the Eastern Townships to prevent raiding into the United States. The 16th Battalion was ordered to furnish one company; a company was formed out of the battalion, taking a quota from each company, 3 officers and 65 n.c.o. and privates. Major Bog was given the command of this company; Lieut. Donald Ross and Ensign R. G. Ostrander as subalterns, and was No. 6 company of the 3rd Administrative Battalion under command of the late Lieut.-Colonel Blanchet (late M.P. and late Speaker of the House of Commons.) The Battalion's headquarters was at the village of Laprairie; No. 6 company was detached to the village of Hemmingford, in the County of Huntingdon, near the frontier; the men were billeted through the village. During the period the company was there it was inspected by the late Lieut.-General Lindsay, who expressed himself well pleased with the discipline and efficiency of the company. After two months duty at Hemmingford the company was ordered home, and on its departure from Hemmingford Major Bog was presented with an address from the inhabitants, testifying to the good behaviour, discipline, &c., of the men. This was signed by the Mayor W. B. Johnson, Julius Scriver, Esquire, present M.P. for Huntingdon, Revd. M. DuVernet, McFee and others. (The roll of this company is appended.)

In June, 1866, the Fenians made a raid into Canada—the 10th was ordered out for active service. Colonel Ross received orders about 2 o'clock on Sunday morning, ordering the Battalion out. Couriers were at once despatched to Wellington, Milford, and Consecon, to the several Captains and these in turn had to warn out their men, some living miles apart, and by two o'clock Sunday afternoon, the whole Battalion embarked on the Steamer "*Bay of Quinte*" for Belleville, there to await orders; the two Ameliasburgh Companies who had previously arrived, were ordered to be attached to the 16th thus forming a Battalion of 9 companies, having a total strength of 529 men from Prince Edward, about 6 o'clock in the evening orders came to proceed to Kingston; the Battalion at once embarked on train arriving in Kingston about midnight. The Battalion took up its temporary quarters at the City Hall; the next day the men were billeted through the City. Several alarms were given, and one in particular, when the Battalion was ordered out after midnight to repel a supposed invasion of the Fenians, No. 8 Company under Captain Lauder and Lieut. Peterson was despatched to Garden Island. No. 1 Co. Capt. Fraser was sent to Fort Henry, the remaining Cos. were kept in readiness to move to any quarter where needed. After remaining in Kingston for 17 days, the Battalion embarked for home amidst the good wishes and cheers of all people of Kingston.

While the Battalion was in Kingston the Staff was completed. Captain Langmuir was appointed Major (Lt. Cavan taking Captaincy of No. 2 Co., Lt. Geo. A. Simpson was appointed Adjutant, J. E. Rankin, M.D., Surgeon, Robt. J. Foster, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon, Lt. Donald Ross, Quarter-Master and Lt. J. F. B. Morrice, Paymaster. During the summer the Battalion was presented with a Set of Colours by the Ladies of Picton; the Colours were made in England and cost £50 sterling and are considered the finest Set of Colours of any Battalion in the 3rd M. D. if *not* in the Dominion.

The Battalion has taken part in Eleven Brigade camps viz.: at Kingston, Picton, Trenton, Gananoque, and Belleville. Three Battalion camps at head-quarter in Picton, the intervening years when ordered for drill. Drill was performed at Co. Head-Quarters and were inspected there by the several D. A. Gs. During the last 15 years several of the Companies became non-efficient, and were removed from the Militia List, viz.: No. 2, 3 and 4, leaving only 6 Companies, No. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; the strength of Companies was also reduced to 42 men; these Companies have been renumbered No. 1 as formerly, No. 5 as No. 2, No. 6 as No.