

tain conditions, and in all other conditions will be comparatively useless.

Now, let us return to our starting point, and endeavor, as in few words as possible, to formulate the results of the foregoing considerations. The attempts we have made to solve the various questions which have arisen have led us, without exception, to conclusions affecting some or other particular type of vessel; they show, therefore, the necessity for a careful classification of these types. This classification should be based on tactical considerations, in which case alone will it be possible to determine, from a tactical point of view, the role most fitted for each individual vessel. They have led us also to the conclusion that the satisfactory accomplishment of tactical ends requires the employment of vessels of special types constructed *ad hoc*; and that the vessels, in which attempts have been made to combine a variety of fighting qualities, will answer very imperfectly to the sanguine hopes entertained of them.

Finally to leave no argument unused, we would quote some observations contained in a lecture delivered by an English officer, Captain Colomb, and published in the *Journal of the Royal United Service Institution*. Amongst other things Captain Colomb said: "If I were to make the assertion that the designs of our ships arise more out of instinct and tradition than out of any comprehension of how they are liable to attack and how they are capable of defence, I should at first raise a feeling of credulous surprise in the minds of my hearers. And yet I do make this assertion."

And in this accusation none of his naval hearers seemed to take exception. Further on, speaking of ramming and gun power, he remarked:—"But who can say of any ship in our navy in which the two weapons are combined that her gun power is properly sacrificed to assist her ram, or that her ram power is judiciously curtailed to admit of increased ordnance?"

Again, describing an imaginary naval combat, he said:—"It seems to me that a gunless ram of equal speed with the *Monarch*, but about one fifth of her size, would meet her on equal terms on the open sea."

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The force assembled in camp was formed into a division, composed of one regiment of cavalry, three field batteries and three brigades of infantry. The brigades were commanded by officers belonging to the force of the district, as well as the staff of the brigades. Being the first time these officers were placed in such a position, much credit is due to them for the manner in which their various duties were carried out.

Company and battalion drill was carried out for the first few days with marked good effect. When brigades were formed and drilled under their respective Brigadiers, it was surprising to observe how both officers, non-commissioned officers and men fell into their respective places in so very short a time.

Having been taken unwell at the time of your arrival in Niagara, the division was paraded and passed under your personal supervision and inspection. The general appearance of the force, the arms, clothing, &c. as well as the steady manner in which the different corps moved, I was gratified to find received your praise and approbation, as well

as the general arrangements of the camp and rifle ranges.

In order to give a practical idea, or trial of attack and defence, a sham fight was arranged by Lieut. Colonel A. Brunel at the request and with the approval of the Adj. General, under orders issued on that occasion, by which the force was divided into two divisions, the one numerically inferior to the other (or defending force) which consisted of two squadrons of the 2nd Regiment of Cavalry, one battery of field artillery, and the Rifle Brigade of five Battalions, under the command of Lieut. Colonel Gillmor, 2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles; the other numerically superior or attacking force, and which consisted of the Governor General's Foot Guards, and one squadron of the Regiment of Cavalry, two batteries of Field Artillery, and two brigades of infantry, under the command of Lieut. Colonel Denison, Brigade Major. The defending force was placed in position in front of Fort St. George, overlooking the Niagara River, further strengthened by certain passes or approaches being allowed, by which only the position could be attacked all other grounds or roads being considered impassable. The attacking force was supposed to be advancing from Queenston Heights, a strong position, being considered as an equivalent to superior numbers. The Adjutant General and Divisional Staff acted as umpires. Being unable to be in the field, I beg leave to forward the accompanying report of the fight, by Lieut. Colonel Brunel, who acted as Assistant Adjutant General: of what passed under his personal observation on this occasion.

The Governor General's Body Guard and the 2nd Regiment of Cavalry, under the command of Lieut. Colonel McLeod, mustered well, averaging 3 officers and 45 troopers per troop.

The three Field Batteries, under the command of Captain Smith, Hamilton Field Battery, as usual mustered strong—in fact, I may say, in full strength, were well horsed and performed their shot and shell practice under Lieut. Colonel French, Inspector of Artilleries.

The three Garrison Batteries performed their annual drill of 16 days, as follows:—

Toronto Garrison Battery, in barracks at Toronto. St. Catharines and Collingwood, at Kingston; and were inspected by the same officer as the Field Batteries.

The Independent Rifle Company at the Sault Ste. Marie, performed its annual drill under the command of Captain Wilson at the above place.

TARGET PRACTICE.

In order to enable the force ordered to assemble at Niagara—being stronger than last year—to perform the usual annual target practice, it was necessary to rearrange the ranges, butts, &c. at that place. Having received the necessary authority, I accordingly laid out afresh the ranges, &c. in question, adding an additional range and target to each of the three sets hitherto required; thus making three sets of four ranges and targets each—one set for the 200, 400, and 600 yards respectively—in all twelve targets four of each class; in the discharge of which duty I was ably seconded by Lt. Col. Denison, Brigade Major.

The ranges and butts thus laid out worked well, with perfect safety, affording better facilities for firing, marking, &c., as well as diminishing the labour of the superintending officer.

The following are the names of the best shots in the District, according to the An-

nual Target Practice Return; also the average figure of the several arms, which I beg to bring before your notice:

Name of the best shot in the District—Corporal Wilson, No. 6 Company, 38th Battalion.

Score.	Points.
200 yards.....	3 4 4 4 3 18
400 ".....	4 2 3 3 3 15
400 ".....	4 2 3 4 4 17
	70

Cavalry.

Average regimental figure of merit: 6.61

Artillery.

Field Batteries:—Performed their shot and shell practice under Lieut. Colonel French.

St. Catharines Battery, returns not received.
Collingwood Battery, returns not received.

1st Brigade.

The best shooting Company:—No. 5 Company, 38th Batt. 25.12.

The best shooting Battalion.—38th Batt. 17.62.

2nd Brigade.

The best shooting Company:—No. 2 Company, 36th Batt. 23.52.

The best shooting Battalion:—35th Batt. 13.49.

3rd Brigade.

The best shooting Company.—No. 6 Company, 31st Batt. 21.33.

The best shooting Battalion.—31st Batt. 18.77.

The best shooting Company in the District:—No. 5 Company 38th Batt.

The best shooting Battalion:—38th Battalion.

Brigade and Divisional Figures of Merit.

	Fig. of Merit.
1st Brigade.....	13.42
2nd do.....	14.49
3rd do.....	11.81
Divisional.....	12.26

The highest Battalion figure of merit obtained in 1871-72 was..... 17.07

The highest figure of merit obtained in 1872-73 is..... 17.62

A slight increase.

The above information relative to the target practice, I have obtained from the annual target practice return for 1872-73 as well as the report (annual) for the same year, by Major Dartnell, who acted as the Divisional Musketry Instructor in camp at Niagara, both of which I beg leave to forward for your information and consideration.

The muster for annual drill this year was fully as strong, if not stronger than last year, and when it is considered that force of 6,000 men mustered at Niagara in a little over 24 hours, moving by wagon, rail, and steam boat, and on the march from their respective headquarters, to camp, (and returning) went overland, and were duly rationed and provisioned—underwent the daily routine, and performed the duties of a soldier's life,