

Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1874.

(Continued from Page 149.)

APPENDIX NO. 1.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 1.

Deputy Adjutant-General's Office,
London, 21st December, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the enclosed Return of the Annual Drill of the District under my command for the year 1874.

The total force who performed drill for this year was—

- One Regiment of Cavalry, 4 Troops,
 - Two Batteries of Field Artillery,
 - One Battery of Garrison Artillery,
 - Ten Battalions of Infantry and Rifles,
- being a total strength of 267 officers, 3,256 non commissioned officers and men, with eight guns, and 160 sabres.

The following corps did not perform drill for this year, viz:—27th Battalion of Infantry, and Sarnia Garrison Battery, who obtained special permission to postpone drill; also, one company 29th Battalion, two companies 32nd Battalion, and one company 33rd Battalion; these latter, though good companies, were restricted from performing their drill on account of their having been below minimum strength last year.

There were two brigade camps assembled in the district, the first held at Guelph for 12 days, commencing 29th June, consisting of—

The "Wellington" Field Battery, under Captain Macdonald.

The 28th "Perth" Battalion, under Lieut-Colonel W. Smith,

The 29th "Waterloo" Battalion, under Major Peck,

The 30th "Wellington" Rifles under Lieut-Colonel Clarke,

The 32nd "Bruce" Battalion, under Lieut-Colonel Sproat, being a total of 78 officers, and 1,037 non commissioned officers and men, under command of Lieut.-Colonel Clarke, 30th Rifles.

This brigade was formed from the 2nd Brigade Division, and was camped on the "Exhibition Grounds" near Guelph, having also the Race course for drilling on. I was present there during four days and inspected the brigade, which turned out in a very efficient state, and had evidently made considerable progress in their drill during camp.

The County of Wellington and Town of Guelph not only showed the interest which they have always taken in their Militia Force, by many acts of kindness, but also, as in former years, voted a sum to augment the daily pay of their own local corps, while the ladies of Guelph most liberally provided an entertainment to every one in camp.

On the 7th September, another brigade, taken from the 1st Brigade Division, assembled in camp near London for 12 days, consisting of—

1st Regiment Cavalry, under Lt.-Colonel Cole,

1st London Field Battery," under Lieut-Colonel Shanly,

7th Battalion "London Light Infantry," under Lieut-Colonel McBeth,

22nd "Oxford Rifles," under Lt.-Colonel Hugh Richardson,

24th Battalion "Kent," under Lt. Colonel D. Smith,

26th Battalion "Middlesex," under Lieut.-Colonel Attwood,

being a total strength of 119 officers, 1,537 non commissioned officers and men, with four guns and 160 sabres; under my own command, with Lieut. Colonel Moffat, Brigade Major.

This brigade is complete and fit for service, and though the greater part of the men were recruits, yet they improved so much in drill as to be able to go through a satisfactory brigade field day before the camp was broken up.

At both these brigade camps regulated routine of camp duties was fairly carried on, and the general conduct very orderly and well behaved; the rations for both camps were very good, in fact more satisfactory than at any previous camps.

Though the weather was excessively hot the sanitary arrangements were good, and there was very little sickness.

Target practice was strictly and carefully performed under the efficient superintendence of Lieut. Colonel R. Lewis (late 7th Battalion) for the London Camp, and of Captain Thompson, Goderich Garrison Artillery, who was equally attentive to his duties, for the Guelph Camp; and I venture to hope that the liberality of the Government in giving prizes for the best shots, as in 1872, will again be shown, and will not be confined to the grants to Rifle Associations only, at whose meetings but few of the volunteer force can attend.

I was present at the muster of each corps in these camps, and saw that every man on the pay roll was present or duly accounted for.

With regard to the effects of the order issued previous to these camps, in which the strength of companies was reduced from 55 to 42 non commissioned officers and men, I am of opinion that it is an advantage, by keeping the general strength of the companies more equal, and allowing captains more choice of men to fill up their companies.

The enclosed Return marked "A," of the six years during which the present Militia Act has been in force, shows the strength of the force in this district that have performed annual drill each year, together with the average strength per company or corps; and it will be noticed that the average of this year is three officers and 43 men, per company, while the total average of the five preceding years is three officers and 47 men, with the strength allowed being 55 men.

The system of brigade camps continues the most popular with the force, and the officers and men generally have got so accustomed to these camps, that a great deal of the confusion at first incidental to the novelty of the life has worn off and they now settle down for their few days drill without loss of time.

The two Batteries of Field Artillery are probably the most efficient corps in the district, much of which is due to the great attention which their respective commanding officers pay to their corps. The London Field Battery were allowed to perform four days extra drill, and they marched to Port Stanley for shot and shell practice with their muzzle loading rifle nine pounder field guns, making satisfactory practice. I trust that both Field Batteries will be permitted extra drill for a like purpose next year.

The 25th "Elgin" Battalion performed their drill by eight days in battalion camp at St. Thomas, where I inspected them but regret that I cannot report finding the battalion in so satisfactory state as I could wish.

The 33rd "Huron" Battalion also performed drill in battalion camp at Godrich. I

found everything highly satisfactory at my inspection there. Drill very steady, as this corps always has been; and arms, accoutrements and uniforms in very good order.

I have to report that, being instructed to call out guards of honor to attend His Excellency the Governor General during his tour through this district, I found such a general desire among the force to turn out that my only difficulty was to keep the numbers within due limits. I am happy to be able to report that His Excellency (who invariably inspected every guard of honor) was pleased to express himself well pleased with them.

I have, as on former occasions, much satisfaction in acknowledging the able assistance so willingly accorded me by Lt. Col. Moffat, and by Lieut.-Colonel Service, Brigade Majors, and by the commanding officers of corps in the district.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN B. TAYLOR, Lt.-Col.

Deputy Adjutant General,

Military District, No. 1.

YEAR.	NUMBER WHO PERFORMED ANNUAL DRILL.		AVERAGE STRENGTH PER COMPANY.		Manner in which Drill was carried out.
	Companies or Corps.	Officers.	Men.	Officers. Men.	
1869.....	78	305	3,982	3	which Drill was carried out.
1870.....	65	242	3,171	3	
1871.....	74	311	3,052	3	
1872.....	83	325	3,078	3	
1873.....	49	176	1,867	3	
1874.....	76	297	3,256	3	
					Battalion Camp, Local Head quarters, 12 days. Brigade Camp for 16 days. Divisional Camp for 8 days. Divisional Camp at Windsor, 16 days. Local Battalion Camps, 8 days; or 16 days at head-quarters hot in Camp, reduced to 12 days.—Companies reduced to 42.

JOHN B. TAYLOR, Lieut.-Colonel.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 2.

Head Quarters, Old Fort Toronto,
18th December, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Major General commanding, the accompanying Inspection Report of corps of Active Militia, in Military District No. 2, which have performed the annual drill for 1874-75, in accordance with General Orders, dated Ottawa 3rd June, 1874.

The strength of these corps, which were duly mustered by the District Paymaster Major Alger, is as undermentioned:—