

accepted for those districts which possess Militia Artillery.

ON SUCCESSIVE TRAINING OF MILITIA BATTALIONS.

113. Referring to the proposition on which the committee was instructed to report, to utilise existing barracks for the yearly training of successive Militia regiments, they submit the following observations.

114. A Militia battalion called out for training requires to be provided with the following staff, exclusively its own whether trained at the depot centre of its district, or at a distance from that centre, viz. :—

Adjutant	} These are all attached to and must be drawn away from the depot centre for training duties.
Sergeant-major	
Quartermaster sergeant	
Orderly-room clerk	
Sixteen company sergts. & Eight drummers	

115. If trained at a barrack, not being a depot centre, the battalion must be provided in addition with—

Quartermaster.
Surgeon and hospital staff.
Musketry-sergeant.
Drum-major.

116. If trained at the depot centre, the duties of the several officers and non-commissioned officers last enumerated would be performed for the Militia battalion by the permanent staff of the depot.

117. But if trained at a barrack not being a depot centre, either each battalion must be independently provided, or a permanent staff, consisting of quartermaster, surgeon &c., musketry-sergeant, and would not be a profitable arrangement unless the barrack could be utilised for Militia training throughout the year.

118. It is therefore desirable that any barrack that might be selected for the training of successive battalions of Militia, should be at the same time a depot centre, conveniently situated with respect to the battalions there required to be successively trained.

119. Militia battalions would, moreover, be likely to derive greater benefit if associated during training with the permanent regular organization of a depot centre, possessing an experienced commander and staff, than if isolated for training under their own officers.

120. This being promised, it appears that the proposed system of training by successive battalions would be advantageous, but that its application must be limited to those localities where Militiamen can come out for training during a great part of the year irrespective of particular seasons. The system is, moreover, commended by the following consideration :—

121. If it be decided to increase the number of Line battalions at home, it is presumed that the existing barrack accommodation must be increased in proportion; and it might be a matter both of convenience and economy to effect the necessary increase in such a manner, that the newly-constructed barracks should serve as winter quarters for Line battalions, and might be occupied by Militia during the special seasons when those Line battalions might be under canvas at Aldershot or the Curragh.

122. The following would appear to be the localities where the system would be applicable.

Lancashire possesses seven Militia Infantry battalions, which it is proposed to increase.

The training barrack proposed is Fleetwood. This has been selected as a depot centre. Its capacity is now—Equal to the accom-

modation of 41 officers, 716 N.C. officers and men.

The capacity of a depot centre has been estimated to accommodate in quarters 11 officers, 276 N.C. officers and men.

Surplus of accommodation at Fleetwood 30 officers, 440 N.C. officers and men.

Accommodation required to be added for a battalion of Militia, 300 N.C. officers and men.

If two Militia battalions were trained together, one of each pair under canvas, during the four summer months, nine battalions could complete their training from May to September inclusive; and the barrack would therefore be available for a Line battalion from October to April inclusive.

The place of training proposed for Yorkshire is at or near York.

Middlesex and the Metropolitan Districts with Surrey possess eleven Militia Infantry battalions, of which seven might train at Aldershot during the summer months.

It is proposed to train the remaining four battalions, as well as two Essex battalions, singly in succession from December to May, at Warley, a proposed depot centre, where increase of accommodation would have to be provided for about fourteen officers and 250 non-commissioned officers and men; and where there is already plenty of land for that purpose the property of the public.

Cheshire, Stafford, and Warwick, possess seven Militia Infantry battalions. These might all perform their training, from May to September inclusive, at Stafford, a proposed depot centre; supposing additional accommodation for one battalion to be provided. From October to April inclusive this accommodation would be available for a Line battalion.

Ayr, Dumfries, Renfrew, Lanark, Stirling, possess six Militia Infantry battalions, which might all perform their training, from May to September inclusive at Ayr, a proposed depot centre, supposing additional accommodation to be provided. From October to April inclusive this accommodation would be available for a Line battalion.

123. In all other cases but those above enumerated it will probably be advisable to train Militia battalions at the depot centres of their respective districts, as large a number as possible being accommodated in the barracks, the remainder under canvas.

IRELAND.

LINE AND MILITIA INFANTRY.

124. Although Ireland possesses only seven national battalions, it has been found necessary, with a view to uniformity of organization, to form eight infantry districts in that island; a measure which entails the localising in Ireland of nine Line battalions which have no nominal connection therewith. Of these nine battalions, several possess already a real connection with Ireland through recruiting; while three others, having been lately transferred from the Indian establishment, can have no predilection of long standing for any particular locality.

125. Should there exist at any time a surplus of recruits in Ireland, other battalions will send parties to enrol them, as in similar cases in the districts in England.

126. Under a system of voluntary enlistment, battalions localised in England, Ireland, or Scotland, need not necessarily become either purely English, purely Irish, or purely Scotch; and by means of the recruiting arrangements suggested in paragraphs 81, 82, the much to be desired result might be obtained of battalions in which the three sister kingdoms would all be represented.

127. It will be observed that it is proposed to establish three depot centres in Ulster, two in Lianster, one in Connaught, and two in Munster.

Five of the districts would each possess four Militia Infantry battalions; two districts would each possess six battalions; one district would possess only three battalions. But it should be borne in mind that these are for the most part weak, as will be seen by reference to Appendix (A)

128. The actual aggregate strength of the Militia force in seven of the districts varies from 2,000 to 2,200. In the remaining district the aggregate strength is 2,470. It may be expected that these numbers will be increased by one-third, if the present establishment be maintained; but if the establishment be reduced, as suggested, by 5,000, the above aggregate strength will be reduced.

129. In applying to Ireland the plan which has been proposed for Great Britain, it will therefore be necessary to increase the capacity of Irish depot centres. An increase of one-fourth will probably suffice, since the number of Line battalions for each district will not increase with the number of Militia Infantry battalions, but will be in variable at two for each district.

130. As a general rule the Militia battalions might train, during summer, partly under canvas at their respective depot centres. In exceptional cases they might train at their county head-quarters.

131. Where the number of counties comprised in any infantry district exceeds four, the Militia regiments of the counties most distant from the depot centre would have considerable distances to travel between their homes and their training stations if trained at depot centres, and these are the exceptional cases referred to in the preceding paragraph. In such cases it may be advisable to leave the head quarters and staff of the regiments most distant from their depot centres as now in their respective counties, attaching them, however, to those centres for the purposes of command, inspection, and correspondence.

132. The Inspector-General of Irish Militia states that the counties would, for the most part if not in all cases, undertake to build barracks for their Militia regiments, provided they could depend on receiving from the Government, as interest for the outlay, the yearly sums now represented by billet-money.

ROYAL AND MILITIA ARTILLERY.

133. It is proposed to divide Ireland into two Artillery districts; the one comprising Ulster and Lianster, minus Kilkenny and Wexford; the other comprising Connaught and Munster, plus Kilkenny and Wexford.

These districts would contain respectively four and five regiments of Militia Artillery.

The most convenient training stations now available would be, for the Northern districts, Carrickfergus, Lough Neagh, Letterkenny, and the Pigeon House Fort, Dublin; and for the Southern district, Duncannon Fort and Kinsale.

134. The proper stations for the artillery lieutenant-colonels of these two artillery districts would be Dublin and Cork.

135. The arrangements for recruiting the Royal Artillery, as well as those for the recruiting for the infantry recruit training, and for the special artillery training of the Militia Artillery, might all be the same as proposed for Great Britain.

136. To carry out the conditions of the memorandum on Organization, it is found that the number of officers therein proposed exceeds the number now borne by the estimates of the regular army by 417.

*A paymaster-sergeant is not considered necessary; colour-sergeants should not for their respective companies in that capacity.