

tack. The alarm was given by the guard boat opening fire on the enemy's boats, which were both soon heard. Parachute lights were then fired by the Royal Artillery, and the enemy's boats were clearly discerned. The guns and small arms then opened a deadly fire, and the parachute lights were continued to be fired at the enemy's boats, who did not succeed in doing any harm to the submarine mine. Signal parties were placed in Fort Monckton and Gilkicker battery in such a way as not to be discerned by the attacking party, and messages were received from time to time as to the condition of the mine. The signal apparatus used was the very convenient little lime light apparatus lately introduced into the Service and invented by Quartermaster Sergeant Walker, R.E. The defence was under the direction of Major Stockley, R.E., the superintending officer of Royal Engineer experiments at Stokes Bay, who has charge of the numerous and important experiments in submarine defences, including the *Oberon*, which are daily being carried on under the direction of the War Department, who are now fully aware of the growing importance of a properly organized force for the defence of the United Kingdom. The whole of the 35th Company Submarine Miners, under command of Captain G. M. Collings, R.E., with Lieutenants Chermide, Bennett, and Knight, are now quartered in Fort Monckton, and employed exclusively on these important experiments. The result of Thursday's experiments is greatly in favour of submarine mines as a defensive weapon, and although the attack was led in the most approved way, and had the advantage of being under the direction of the most experienced officers of our navy in matters connected with torpedoes, Captain Singer, R.N., the president of the Admiralty Torpedo Committee, assisted by officers specially trained under Capt. Fisher, R.N.,—they were not successful in destroying the submarine defences, although the means used for illuminating the channel were very feeble in comparison with the electric light, which would be made use of for this purpose in actual warfare."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

"The Aldershot Manœuvres."

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—Thinking it may interest some of your readers to know something about the troops engaged in these manœuvres or "summer drills" as they are now called, I write you a few lines of personal experience. First of all, as regards the weather, to call it bad is nothing; such constant rain, day and night, I never saw, the camps are bogs, and the tents simply pools of water, everybody is drenched to the skin, and many have to stand up all night, rather than lie down in a morass. Notwithstanding the spirits of the troops have never been depressed, and all are as cheery as possible, although an extraordinary amount of extra labor has been rendered necessary by the bad weather.

Secondly, as regards the force itself some 25,000 men are engaged, not picked regiments or men, but just as they come, Cavalry, Artillery, and Infantry, with many

young soldiers enlisted too for short service. Now I'll tell you what I have seen them do, and call them after this a "weedy lot" if you like, I never wish to see a finer set of fellows. On a very warm day two Divisions under Sir Henry de Bathe, marched from Aldershot to Woolmer 17 miles, and Kingsley 12 miles to encamp, out of 10,000 men all in heavy marching order, with full equipment, 17 men only fell out on the march to Woolmer, and 12 men on the march to Kingsley.

On another day Sir John Douglas marched his two Divisions from Aldershot to the fight at Freusham, leaving at six o'clock in the morning and returning about the same hour that evening, marching fully 20 miles, a portion of which was at the double over hilly ground, knapsacks were not carried and only (6) six men fell out during this long day.

Again at the fight on Chobham ridges, during a down-pour of rain the men not carrying their knapsacks, marched, return included 16 miles, and not a man fell out.

As regards sanitary statistics the sick are only 3.7 per cent. of the whole, and this includes those who have slight attacks of catarrh amongst troops just from London quarters.

I only hope our Canadian camps will compare equally well with the above, for although I know we are hopelessly deficient in having trained officers and non-commissioned officers in our Canadian militia, still in matters of simple marching and in health statistics we should hold our own—though I fear with such boots as most volunteers wear, a 20 mile march in heavy marching order would show a long train of stragglers.

"OUTPOST."

Aldershot, 19th July, 1875.

Brigade Camps.

In the eight days which have elapsed since the 62nd Battalion was marched from the city to Camp Torryburn, the men have made good proficiency in the acquisition of military knowledge. It must be remembered that many of those composing the Battalion are new recruits, who have never before had the advantages of field drill, and added to this they have in several ways labored under disadvantages. The actual number of days' drill is only six, and the first day was occupied in marching out and getting encamped, while Sunday was, of course, in respect to drill, a holiday in Camp. For the first few days, too the men had insufficient accommodation, but this has since been fully remedied, and everything is in military order. The tents, exclusive of those used for mess, guard and hospital purposes, are thirty four in number; and give ample accommodation to officers and men. The site of Camp Torryburn is admirably adapted to the purpose for which it is used. The field is that formerly used as the Trotting Park, but long since abandoned for sporting purposes. Situated as it is surrounded by hills upon hills in the distance, on every side save where the broad Kennet-basis roils its waters, the scenery is most attractive. The camp ground rises slightly higher than the land immediately surround-

ing it and is of a sandy nature, so that, in case of rain no water can lodge in the tents. An hour after the heavy rain of one night last week the ground was thoroughly drained, and the advantages of a situation of the kind can only be fully appreciated by those who have had experience in camping in wet weather. The selection of the site reflects great credit on Col. Macshane, and is universally conceded that the preference of this place to the Barrack square is attended with every advantage.

The men as a rule are very orderly, and Camp Torryburn is a particularly quiet one. Until yesterday morning no men had been put in the guard tent, but one or two who had spent Sunday in town returned to Camp in a somewhat unsoldierlike condition, and were placed under arrest.

The Hospital tent under charge of Asst. Surgeon T. J. O. Earle, is well adapted to such purposes. So far it has only had three serious cases of dysentery. These were cured and yesterday morning there was a clean bill of health. During the day however, a few cases caused by exhaustion through heat, were given the surgeon, but the indisposition of the sufferers was of brief duration.

Yesterday was the most lovely day witnessed in Camp, being the occasion of a muster parade and inspection by Deputy Adjutant General Maunsell. Col Maunsell intended to have deferred this inspection until a later period, but having to go to Chatham to-day to inspect the 13rd Battalion, was obliged to embrace this opportunity before leaving.

The men were called out about half-past ten, and a muster was first made, the District Paymaster Col. Baird, checking off the muster rolls in order to determine the number of men entitled to receive pay. The result was that 242 answered to their names, and the number would have been larger had not several who obtained leave of absence for Sunday omitted to return.

The battalion yesterday was as follows:—

Lieut.-Col. Macshane.
Major Sullivan,
Adjutant Blain,
Brevet Major and Paymaster Maher,
Surgeon S. Z. Earle,
Assistant Surgeon T. J. O. Earle,
Quartermaster Wallace,
making a staff of 7.

Companies.

No. 1,	Captain Devlin.....	40 men.
No. 2,	" Kaye.....	33 men.
No. 3,	" Farrer.....	44 men.
No. 4,	" Hazen.....	37 men.
No. 5,	" Nugent.....	43 men.
No. 6,	" Likely.....	38 men.

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The lieutenants, included in the above are Surdee, Hartt and McLean.

After the muster the men were inspected by Adj. General Maunsell, and went through the battalion and company drill in excellent manner, considering the brief period in which they had been drilling. Some of the movements were well worthy of older soldiers, and all who witnessed the inspection agreed in giving the volunteers high praise for their proficiency.

After the men had been kept in the field nearly two hours they were dismissed. Previous to this the Adjutant addressed them briefly, complimenting them on the proficiency shown under the circumstances. The men were exhorted to continue to perfect themselves in drill, and to become subject to the best discipline. The Adjutant