

available should be such as to admit of varied field practice and field firing at long ranges. Now at Hythe the commandant is much cramped in this respect, and it is worthy of consideration whether it would not be judicious to transfer the site to Dartmoor, where in practice Infantry and Artillery would be able to work in combination, as they would be obliged to do it in actual warfare.

The course at Hythe comprises among other subjects the following: Judging distances by estimate, by flash and round, and by a range finder; care of arms and ammunition, the theoretical principles of musketry, target practice, range and field, field firing, night firing with luminous sights, the use of rifle calibre machine guns, with a knowledge of their mechanisms, and for officers and non-commissioned officers using that weapon, revolver practice. The officers are required to give lectures on theoretical principles, and throughout the course theory and practice to go hand in hand. For the extra certificate, exacted from adjutants, and voluntary from other officers, the following additional subjects are taught: Composition and manufacture of gunpowder, small arm ammunition, history of small arms, the theory of projectiles, and a description of the different rifles in use in Europe. A description of what I actually saw on the occasion of my visit to Hythe will serve as, at all events, a partial illustration of the course. The morning being wet the whole of the officers and non-commissioned officers were assembled to hear the lecture by the chief instructor, Lieut.-Col. Mackinnon. The subject was Infantry tactics as influenced by fire, and what the able lecturer said on the subject of the cone of dispersion and indirect fire deepened my conviction of the necessity of increased scientific knowledge of the effect of fire under different conditions. The lecture was listened to with the most profound interest, and every now and then some statement or explanation was greeted with applauding and appreciative stamping.

In the afternoon the rain ceased and the whole force was turned to perform a field-firing operation. The utmost readiness possible was manifested, and the only flaw—unavoidable—was that, owing to the danger to which passengers on the Dymchurch Road would have been exposed, the enemy's position was not attacked from the left, where a considerable amount of cover existed. This fact shows how desirable it is that a more suitable and less cramped practice ground should be provided.

The general idea was as follows: A small force of the enemy, estimated at about 120 men, with two guns and some cavalry, has landed on the beach and entrenched themselves. The presumption is that this force is to cover the landing of an advanced guard of an army whose object is to seize Shorncliffe and Dover and hold the coast line. The Hythe garrison, consisting of 250 Infantry and three machine guns, is ordered to attack and drive them back to their boats.

I may mention that with officers' servants and the staff of the school the number of the Hythe force was actually made up to the above-mentioned strength. The enemy's firing line and supports were represented by wooden dummies made to scale, with stuffed figures for the artillerymen; the main body was represented by screens. The disposition for the attack may be summarised as follows: The ten best shots in the school were formed into a section of marksmen, and sent with a Nordenfelt machine gun to take up a position on a hill to the left front of the enemy, so as to bring an oblique fire on the latter, at a distance of about 1,700 or 1,800 yards; no distances were exactly known; two other machine guns with fifteen men each being held in readiness to make a closer flank attack; the remainder of the force was divided into four companies, officers and men being intermixed, for a direct attack. The enemy were covered, the firing line by shelter trenches, and the supports and reserve by the swell of the ground. In the shelter trenches only the heads and shoulders were shown. Fires of straw were lighted in front of the trenches in order to imitate the smoke of battle. The attack commenced with the marksmen on the hill firing ten volleys and the machine gun 150 rounds. After a few rounds had been fired from the hill, a flanking party doubled along the Dymchurch road till they reached a favourable position about 600 or 700 yards from the enemy, where they got fair cover from a little rise of the ground and some furze bushes. There they opened fire on the enemy's two guns on his right, and a refused flank on his left. The party on the hill then descended and joined the flanking party, crossing the military canal on a raft made of two small boats connected by a platform. In the meantime the main body, which had been drawn up under cover, deployed for attack, and advanced by half-company rushes of about twenty paces over slightly undulating shingle. To avoid breaking the continuity of my narrative I will here mention that there were three cessations of fire to count hits and readjust the position of the enemy, for at 600 yards the enemy's main body was supposed to have replaced the supports absorbed into the firing line, and at 300 yards these fresh supports were themselves supposed to be absorbed.

(To be Concluded Next Week.)

## Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

### MONTREAL THE PLACE FOR THE SCHOOL.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—If you wish to do the volunteers of this province a good turn—in fact, the best that can be done them—you will agitate, and keep agitating until you succeed, the removal of the Infantry School to Montreal. It is a well understood difficulty, considered indeed, without a question the greatest obstacle to the success of our volunteer regiments in the city, that the school is not here in the commercial centre. Not only is it impossible to get the best material for officers for the city battalions because they cannot spare the time necessary for qualification, as it now involves some months' residence in St. Johns, away from their business, which must be laid aside for the time, but it is certain that were the school in Montreal, many more of the officers of the country battalions would be induced to qualify.

The school as it now is, is comparatively a useless expense to the country; but few attend it, and every volunteer officer will testify that, if the means of qualification were made easier by the removal of the school to the city, there would be no difficulty in keeping full the officers' roll.

If it is a drawback to the officers to have the school away from the centre, the same argument will, without doubt, obtain in the case of the non-commissioned officers, who, in the city battalions, could thus obtain the necessary instruction to perfect them in their duties without neglecting their ordinary work, while those of the country would be at least as likely to come to Montreal as to go to St. Johns.

So far as the permanent officers and men of the school are concerned, they would simply be as well off here as there, except, indeed, that having more to instruct they would have more work to do than at present, but I am certain they would be glad of the extra duty knowing that here they would be really of use.

It seems out of place to consider the question of the availability of the corps for actual duty, as the Government apparently does not intend to make use of them for that purpose, else why were not thousands of dollars saved to the country on the occasion of the recent trouble with the railway workmen? But if they are intended for anything but instruction, they would be at least as easily removed from Montreal to any scene of action as from St. Johns, while if their quarters were here they could be kept and the duties be performed by relays from the volunteer corps here without serious inconvenience.

I repeat that the greatest benefit which could be conferred on the volunteer service, towards ensuring efficient officers and non-commissioned officers, would be the removal of the school to Montreal, where it would be very easy to obtain quarters quite as convenient as those at St. Johns.

A VOLUNTEER OFFICER.

Montreal, 22nd October, 1888.

## Queries and Replies.

### THE GRANTS TO RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

Q. (1.) May more than one rifle association be organized in connection with a country corps, having different company headquarters; and will they each be entitled to the usual government allowance of \$75 per annum? (2.) Is there any class of rifle associations who are only allowed \$50 per annum by the Government, and for what reason?

A CONSTANT READER.

Ans. (1.) The aim of the Militia Department is to encourage the formation of regimental rather than company associations. There are exceptional cases where it has not been practicable to organize regimental associations, and where the \$75 grant has been divided between the companies organizing. In no such instances can the companies receive each the full allowance of \$75. (2.) Yes. Because the work done or attempted by these associations is not deemed worthy the full allowance.

The *United Service Gazette* says that there has been considerable discussion in naval and military circles anent the Manchester Ship Canal which in time of war would afford an excellent place of retirement for the fleet. If connected with a great inland arsenal the canal would be of the highest importance.

H. M. S. *Carysfort* at Alexandria, it is said fired into a steamer by accident. The ball of the Gardner's gun, 1½ inches in diameter, penetrated her ¾ inch iron sheathing and passed through two compartments. Then we are told "officers from the man-of-war came on board and examined the damage and apologized, the bullet having by mistake been used in place of blank cartridge."