

merical strength of men and horses appearing in the returns sent in by the Deputy Adjutant Generals of Districts, whose inspection was simultaneous, or within a day or so of mine.

With this end in view, after a minute inspection of men, horses, harnessing, &c., each Field Battery was called upon to march past at a walk and trot, and to perform a few simple field manoeuvres under its own officers.

The non commissioned officers and men were then examined individually and collectively in gun drill and a knowledge of ammunition, and the driving tested in limbering up and coming into action.

I regret not having had an opportunity of inspecting the batteries at their annual gun practice, and my report is necessarily deficient in this respect.

The only opportunity I had, viz: in the case of the London Field Battery at Port Stanley, was frustrated by unavoidable circumstances.

The Toronto Field Battery whom I had also hoped to have inspected at this exercise, performed their practice before going into camp, a custom which I hope will in future be discontinued, having in view the number of recruits to whom for want of sufficient preliminary drill such practice must be almost worthless.

I have now the honor to submit the following detailed report on the several batteries above mentioned:—

*Hamilton Field Battery.*

Inspected at Niagara Camp, 27th June, 1874, Captain Smith and Lieut. MacMahon. Guns and carriages kept in very good order, but latter require painting. Horses very good. Harness iron work rather rusty, with a good many straps deficient, principally side reins. Driving generally very good, but the drivers required instruction in fitting harness, and in many cases were unable to work their horses on the bit.

The marching past and field manoeuvres under Captain Smith were very well executed.

The non commissioned officers and men appear to have been carefully instructed, and are well up in gun drill but are somewhat deficient in knowledge of ammunition. On the whole the present efficient state of this battery reflects great credit on its commanding officer, and it is to be hoped that his efforts may soon be seconded by properly qualified officers.

*Welland Canal Field Battery.*

Inspected in Niagara Camp, 27th June, 1874, Lieutenants King and McCracken. Guns and carriages in good condition; required repainting and slight repairs. Horses—a good many appeared to be too small for their work, but as they had two days before inspection performed the arduous task of marching 26 miles to camp on the hot day without any casualties, exception can hardly be taken in this particular.

Harness—not so clean as it might have been, with several deficiencies.

This battery has not drilled since 1872 and there were a large number of recruits in the ranks and among the drivers, in consequence the gun drill was badly performed, and very little could be done in field manoeuvring.

Marching past was, however, very well performed, and I have great hopes that with the increased facility for drilling afforded by a drill shed about to be built for this battery at Port Robinson, their turnout next year will leave little to be desired, as the greatest zeal appears to animate all ranks, and both officers are well up in their duties.

*Ottawa Field Battery.*

Inspected at Camp, Ottawa, 30th June, 1874, Captain Stewart, Lieuts. Billings and Savage. Guns and carriages in good condition, but require repairs and painting. Horses very good. Harness clean and well fitted, and in consequence the battery looked very well on parade. Driving good. Marching past and field manoeuvres under Captain Stewart very well performed, but the subaltern officers and sergeants did not appear to know their positions or duties.

The non commissioned officers and men were well up in gun drill, but deficient in a knowledge of ammunition.

It would appear greatly conducive to the efficiency of this battery, were promotion among its non commissioned officers to be regulated by efficiency and not altogether by seniority.

*Kingston Field Battery.*

Inspected at Camp, Kingston, 1st July, 1874, Major Kirkpatrick, Captains Graham and Wilson. Guns and carriages in good condition, but require painting. Horses with a few exceptions very good. Harness not so clean as it ought to have been, with several deficiencies. Marching past and field manoeuvres were well executed, and the non commissioned officers and men were well up in gun drill.

This battery had the advantage of a Sergeant Instructor from the School of Gunnery, and a number of the men had been attached to "A" Battery, but I noticed the battery subaltern officers and sergeants appeared to be unable to instruct their men, and in consequence the latter appeared at a disadvantage.

*Durham Field Battery.*

Inspected at Camp, Cobourg, July 2nd, 1874, Captain Graham and Lieut. McLean. This battery had only just received its equipment. Guns and carriages require repairs and painting. They have no ammunition wagons, and the equipment was very deficient. The horses were very good. The harness was new and well fitted.

Considering it was their first appearance with guns, this battery presented a very creditable appearance on parade.

All ranks seem to have exerted themselves to the utmost, and in consequence marching past, and field manoeuvres, were efficiently performed. Great progress has been made in gun drill which is to be hoped will be perfected during the winter.

Both officers have received Gunnery School Certificates, and are competent to instruct.

A Sergeant Instructor from the School of Gunnery was attached to this battery during the drill.

*Wellington Field Battery.*

Inspected at Camp Guelph, 3rd July, 1874, Captain Macdonald, Lieutenants Nicholl and McRae. Guns and carriages in good condition. Harness nearly all new and well fitted. Horses with one or two exceptions very good.

Marching past and field manoeuvres under Captain Macdonald and the subaltern officers, very well performed. Non commissioned officers and men very well up in gun drill.

Two of the officers, and nearly all the non commissioned officers, have obtained Gunnery School Certificates, and are able to instruct their men, so that, as might be expected, this battery is in a very efficient state.

I noticed, however, as in all the other batteries, a want of knowledge among the gunners of the ammunition and stores they are required to use, and it is to be regretted that this battery was not afforded any opportunity of performing its annual practice.

There appears to be no proper gun sheds where the equipment can be kept, or an opportunity afforded for the instruction of the men during winter months.

*Gananoque Field Battery.*

Inspected at Camp, Gananoque, 11th September, 1874, Captain McKenzie, Lieuts. Mitchell, Britton and McCammon. The first time this battery has turned out with guns, having received the latter from Ottawa Field Battery, but without wagons. Gun carriages require painting and repairs, and the equipment is very deficient. Harness new and generally well fitted, but was not so clean as it ought to have been. Horses rather undersized, but apparently active and fit for work. Marching past well executed, and considerable progress has been made in field manoeuvres. Gun drill well performed, and both officers and men appeared to have paid much attention to this particular. Captain McKenzie and Lieutenant Britton, have obtained Gunnery Certificates, and are competent to instruct.

It is to be hoped that this battery will continue to improve its efficiency by occasional drills during the winter months, and I should recommend that next year it should join a brigade camp for annual drill.

A Sergeant Instructor and two drivers were attached to this battery from the School of Gunnery, and contributed much to its efficiency by their instruction.

*London Field Battery.*

Inspected at Camp, Port Stanley, 18th September, 1874, Lieut. Colonel Shanty, Lieuts. Peters and Williams. Guns and carriages and equipment in good condition, but the latter is deficient in some particulars. Horses very good. Harness in good condition, but deficient of side reins, and no curb bits are used; harness well fitted.

Field manoeuvres under Lieuts. Peters and Williams, fairly well performed considering the nature of the ground which was limited in extent. Gun drill good, both non commissioned officers and men appearing to understand their duties.

The subaltern officers are able to instruct their men.

This battery marched from Camp London, the day before inspection, 33 miles, for the purpose of performing their annual gun practice at Port Stanley.

I would hope that a similar opportunity may be afforded to all the Field Batteries in this Province, as the value of such practical training is indisputable.

*Toronto Field Battery.*

Inspected at Camp Holland, Landing Street, October, 1874, Captain Gray, Lieutenants Denison, Wright, and Green. Guns, carriages, and equipments in good condition.

Horses generally undersized and not very good, owing to the time of year reported to be unfavorable for obtaining good horses, latter being much required for farming work.

Harness very clean and bright considering incessant wet weather while in camp, and generally well fitted, but no bits or side reins were used.