

the first Infantry Brigade busily pitching their tents on an open plateau surrounded by firs. No time was lost; the Quarter-master rode up and gave the regiment its ground, the colourmen marked it out with their little red flags, 500 pairs of hands unloaded the wagons, spread the tents, erected the poles, hammered in the pegs, fastened the cords, and 500 men were housed in a trice."

"The positions we have indicated above were those which will be found occupied to-morrow, (Saturday) morning at eight o'clock the hour at which, according to regulation, the movements leading up to the conflict of the day are to commence. In accordance with the Prussian practice at the autumn manœuvres of their Army, which have become so famous, a "general idea," of the day's operations was this evening communicated to the staff and officers commanding regiments. The following is a copy:—

"Head-Quarters, Army Corps, Aldershot,  
15th September, 1871.

"CONTINUATION OF GENERAL SKETCH OF MAN-  
ŒUVRES.

"Saturday, 16th.—It is assumed that on the morning of Saturday, the 16th, the 1st Division, (defending force) having failed in intercepting the enemy's advanced corps, (2nd Division), and preventing the junction with the main body, has occupied a strong position on Hog's Back, his right being in the direction of Hungry Hill.

"The division has been reinforced during the night by three batteries of Artillery, and its right for the day shall consist of a skeleton force of cavalry and infantry representing 2000 men.

"The 2nd and 3rd Divisions have effected their junction, and finding themselves in superior force, will make a combined attack on the position held by the defending force.

"The 3rd Division will attack in front, and the 2nd Division will endeavour to turn the enemy's right by flank movement.

"The senior officer of the division will regulate the advance.

"The operations of the day must not extend beyond the Puttenham and Wanborough Road on the left of the position, and the Beacon Hill on the left.

"The main bodies of the 2nd and 3rd Divisions will not move from their camping ground at 8 a.m., nor are the outposts to be thrown beyond the positions occupied during the night till that hour.—By command.

(Signed) "C. R. EGERTON, Major General,  
Deputy Adjutant General."

The *Hampstead Express* publishes the following letter from a private in the 1st Royal East Middlesex (Hampstead) Militia to his parents, proper names being superceded:—

"Tent Encampment,  
Aldershot, Sept. 11th, 1871.

"my Dear mother and Father I write these few lines to you hoping you are all Quite well I was very Sorrow to hear that father was very ill I hope he will Soon be Better Dear mother and Father and Brothers and Sister I write to tell you what Sort of a place it is I hope I Shall never See Hamp Shire a gain we youst to grumble about Hampstead But we now it now we are up at 5 o'clock in the morning and we are at Drill at half past 6 till 8. then we go out at ten up to 12 then out a gain at 2 till 5 So we have a nuff to do. Dear mother I must say that we get plenty of vittles to eat But we Sleep rough there is 15 in a tent

that is anuff to Bred a fever but I sleep with the Sargent But poor harry sleeps with the 15 harry dont com is games down her they give them too many 7 days Sells the conell is to Serve with us you must not Speak he Says he will make Soldiers of us But I will take good [care] that they wont have me a gain if I now it Dear mother we are goying on the march to morrow at 2 in the morning to ChobBan and we dont [know] at all how fur we are going but never mind we Shall Soon See you we hope there we dont think we Sh I know you when we come home, we would give anything for a bit of tobacco for we cant get a bit anywhere for love or money Old — has had 3 days pack drill but he says he wont have any more if he can help it and do write and tell us how you are all getting on for we are more miserable about you all than ourselfs and God knows we ar unhappy enough for it would be a treat to see a bed for we [sleep] like pigs one a top of another and pleas tell Mrs. — says she [is] not to come down for we dont know where we shall be, so no more from your too sons good bye and God bless you all.

Direction—

No 4 Company 1st Royal East Middx, Bal-  
ley Bottom Aldershot, or elsewhere.

"give our love to our wives and tell them we are all right and tell them to keep their pecker up for we are fighting for our queen and country, 3 medals we have got."

(To be continued.)

A PHENOMENON OF THE FOREST  
FIRES.

The *Green Bay Advocate* calls attention to a phenomenon attending the great fire in that region which is worthy of scientific investigation. The cooler-headed survivors of the fires at Peshtigo, Sugar Bush and Williamsville say that the fire did not come upon them gradually from burning trees and other objects to the windward, but the first notice they had of it was a whirlwind of flame, in great clouds, from above the tops of the trees which fell upon and enveloped everything. The poor people inhaled it, or the intensely hot air, and fell down dead. This is verified by the appearance of many of the corpses. They were found dead in the roads and open spaces where there were no visible marks of fire near by, with not a trace of burning upon their bodies or clothing. At the Sugar Bush, which is an extended clearing in some places four miles in width corpses were found in the open road, between fences which were only slightly burned. No mark was upon them, but they laid there as if asleep. This phenomenon seems to explain the fact that so many were killed in compact masses. They seemed to have huddled together in what were evidently regarded at the moment as the safest places, away from buildings, trees, or inflammable material, and there to have died together. Fences around cleared fields were burned in spots of only a few rods in length and elsewhere not touched. Fish were killed in the streams—as at Peshtigo.

Christ Church Boston, is the oldest church edifice in that city, its corner stone having been laid in 1729, while the Old South was not built till 1730. When George II was king he manifested his interest in Christ Church by giving it a Communion service, a pulpit Bible and Prayer-Books, all of which are still used. It had an organ in 1736, and the oldest chime of bells in the country, which are still musical and service able, was placed in its tower in 1744.

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The Volunteer Review,  
AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the law."

OTTAWA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1871.

Our issue to-day furnishes abundant evidence of the industry displayed in the compilation of the valuable analysis of the proficiency of our troops in the use of the rifle, which appears in other columns. It would be impossible to overrate the services rendered to the Dominion by the Minister of Militia, Sir Geo. E. Cartier, Bart., and the Adjutant General, Colonel P. Robertson-Ross. The admirable Militia Law prepared by the former and its contemplated organization as developed by the latter affords every day additional proofs of the valuable services both men have rendered the country and how thoroughly each has understood the duties of his important position. One of the vital principles insisted on by the Adjutant General has been that of a "thoroughly practical knowledge of the use of the rifle;" the institution of competitive tournaments with that weapon commencing with the unit of military organization, the company, and ending at present with the Military District, has been the practical exemplification of that principle as devised by himself, and he now gives the country the results in "those pages of a most valuable analysis in which the figure of merit of the best shot in every military unit in the Dominion is shown. A most valuable stage in competitive practice is thus reached which will doubtless be expanded next year to the absolute value of the unit itself, as well as the individual, and finally to the figure of merit of the Battalion. This is undoubtedly the course to take to train rifle-