

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

HALIFAX.

The annual mobilization of the Imperial troops in this garrison took place on 21st Oct. Colonel Hill, R. E., was in command of the troops, the artillery forces being under the direction of Lt.-Col. Saunders, R.A. The manoeuvres took the form of a defence of the city against the attack upon Halifax by imaginary foes, approaching both by land and sea. The enemy attacking by land was supposed to come upon the defenders from the direction of St. Margaret's Bay; while the foe from the sea was represented by a torpedo boat, which endeavored to steam up the harbor despite the guns of the forts. In both cases the defence proved more than equal to the emergency, for the incoming torpedo boat was kept well within the range and fire of the guns by day, and by the aid of the electric search lights she was discovered in her stealthy entrance by night, and could easily have been riddled by the heavy artillery from the forts which so well command the harbor. No enemy could pass the defence posts to the west. Colonel Hill's headquarters were at the point about seven miles down the Margaret's Bay road and from that point he directed the defence. It has often been said "what is the advantage of making the harbor at Halifax well-nigh impregnable while an enemy might land to the west or east and advance by land upon the city?" The movements yesterday showed this possibility has by no means been forgotten. To the Leicestershire regiment was given the task of repelling an invasion from the westward. There was a complete system of defence from a foe in that direction and the various posts, commanding all possible avenues of approach, were intrusted for safe-keeping to the infantry. For a whole day they perseveringly if not bravely did their duty. Not a post was lost and fortunately not the life of a single defender was sacrificed. Of course it must be remembered that the foe was an imaginary foe. Had it not been merely imaginary it would only have been so much the worse for the enemy. When night came all the western posts were still in possession of the Leicestershire men and not till darkness had completely set in were they abandoned to the keeping of the kindly shades. Meanwhile the fortifications on the harbor had not been idle or their defenders asleep. The artillerymen, under command of Capt. Boileau, with headquarters at Fort Ogilvie, scanned the waters carefully by day, and when the torpedo boat was seen steaming up there was not a moment lost. The deadly guns were directed to the incoming craft. She was well within range and decidedly under fire. It was her real character that saved her, for she had been as hostile as she looked shot and shell would have rained down with deadly effect. Nothing could have come between her and destruction. The shades of night brought no relaxation of the watchfulness of the artillery defenders, but rather called for increased vigilance. The engineers assisted with powerful search lights. The torpedo boat, with all her lights out and in appearance as dark as the waters over which she glided, steaming at the rate of 20 knots an hour, was disclosed to view. Great beams of light flashed athwart the harbor from shore to shore. For a moment each object for miles around was rendered as visible as at noon-tide. Merchantman or fishing vessel under the glare of the great light looked like some weird phantom ship of surpassing beauty and strangeness. Twice did the torpedo ship, representing the enemy, assay to come up past the forts, and twice was her form disclosed to view of those in the forts. She was completely at the mercy of the artillery, but they merely showed what might be done if the circumstances were different. By ten o'clock the battle was over. It had been clearly demonstrated that with British soldiers at her guns and behind her trenches, or on the open field, Halifax is safe by land and sea.

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The annual rifle practice of No. 1 Battery, Halifax Garrison Artillery, was held at Bedford Range a few days ago. Capt. Parker was in command, and the following were the chief prize-winners:

\$6 00 B. S. M. Melvin	72
5 00 Gunner McEachren	68
4 50 Gunner Killen	66

4 00 Sergeant Frawley	65
3 50 Gunner McCallum	64
3 00 Corporal Daw	64
2 50 Gunner Melvin	63
2 00 Gunner Giles	61
2 00 Gunner Sutherland	55
2 00 Gunner Meehan	52

RANGE PRIZES.

Best at 200 and 400 yards—Battery medal, B. S. M. Melvin	37
Best at 100 and 200 yards—Geo. Flowers' prize, B. S. M. Melvin	35
Best at 100 and 300 yards—E. W. Wright's prize, Gunner Killen	36
Best at 300 and 400 yards—Major Purcell's prize, B. S. M. Melvin	37
Special prize for recruit making highest score—pipe presented by C. S. DeFreitas, won by Gunner Sutherland	55

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The 63rd Rifles were inspected on the afternoon of Friday, 21st October, at the drill shed yard, by Major Gordon, acting D.A.G. Col. Egan was in command. The battalion went through the drill in a very excellent manner, and the officers in charge have every reason to be proud of the turn out. The band was present and, judging from the music furnished, will soon take a front rank with any other band in the city. First, the battalion was inspected by companies. The accoutrements and clothes were found in excellent order. The march past elicited applause from the spectators and the different movements were gone through in a manner which would do credit to regulars. Lieut.-Col. Dougherty, of Charlottetown, acting district paymaster, mustered the men at the close.

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The 66th P. L. Fusiliers were favored with beautiful weather on 21st Oct. on the occasion of their annual inspection. The battalion mustered at the Drill Shed, and, after roll call, etc., were marched to the drill yard and formed line, awaiting the arrival of the inspecting officers. The officers on parade were Lieut.-Col. Humphrey, Majors Weston and Menger, Surgeon Curry, Captains Kenny (Adjutant) Brown, Chipman, Whitman, King, Davison, Hale, Ritchie and MacKinlay, Paymaster Humphrey, Quartermaster Stevens, Lieuts. Smith, Worsley, Wallace, Nagle, Stairs, Mott, Harrington and Henderson and Assistant Surgeon Kirkpatrick.

The parade state showed an absence of only 26 officers and men.

The companies were so formed as to present a front rank of 16 files, and while some of them presented the 16 files complete, others had several blank files in rear. This is in accordance with the year's regulations, and at the same time greatly facilitates the handling of a battalion, as the companies are of equal front.

At 3.15 Acting Deputy-Adjutant Gordon, accompanied by Brigade-Major McShane and Lieut. Tilley, of the St. John Rifles, arrived, and were received with a general salute. After the staff had passed down the line, the work of inspection commenced, and it can safely be said that it was the most thorough and complete ever witnessed in this district. In former years battalion movements sufficed, but on this occasion not only did the Fusiliers drill by battalion, but each company was separately exercised in company drill.

The officers were all of opinion that the new system of inspection inaugurated by General Herbert has done much to improve both the officers and men in their drill and affords a much better test of the efficiency of a regiment.

Everything being in readiness, Colonel Humphrey proceeded with

BATTALION DRILL.

Column was formed on the right company, and the battalion wheeled to the left, and marched past in column and quarter-column in quick and double time, and while the marching was creditable taken as a whole, considering the uneven state of the ground, it was conceded that the rear company (Capt. King's) bore off the palm, and for steady marching this company could not be excelled.

Line was again formed, and Major Weston proceeded to put the battalion through the manual and firing exercises, after which the line advanced in review order and halted.