

2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles, 10th Royals, 13th Battalion, 39th Battalion, and the Binbrook and Rockton Independent Companies. The strength of the Volunteer Militia Force, (all arms) in the strict under my command, still continues much the same.

The Volunteer Force have enrolled, and re-enrolled, under the Militia Act, in a far more satisfactory manner than was anticipated. At the same time, I consider it my duty to add that all praise is due, not only to the officers commanding battalions, but to the staff and company officers, in their praiseworthy exertions in upholding the strength and promoting the efficiency of their corps.

Agreeable to the general orders of the 5th and 25th June, 1869, the Volunteer Battalions have performed their annual drill under canvass. The advantages in every way of such drill cannot be over-estimated, as tending to promote the efficiency of the Force. Both officers and men prefer performing their drill under canvass.

With reference thereto, I would respectfully suggest that the lowest number of days both for *drill* and *pay* should be *eight*.

The formation of brigade camps, where the three arms of the force would be brought together, would be another great link in the chain of efficiency.

The companies of battalion having performed their annual drill together under canvass, there is a strong probability and fear that, on returning to their company head quarters, company drill, so essential, will be in some measure neglected, or rather there will be difficulty in getting the men to assemble for such drill.

I would respectfully suggest that some further inducements be held out to the men, in the shape of a small payment—say 20 cents per man—for a limited number of company drills during the year. Connected therewith, I would also suggest further encouragement being held out to the rank and file, as an inducement not only to fire off their annual allowance of ball cartridge, but to take part in rifle matches, and go into rifle shooting; a matter of vital importance to the Volunteer Force.

There must and always will be changes going on in the ranks of the Volunteer Force, which often impairs the efficiency of a corps; to meet that difficulty the above suggestions are respectfully offered in order to keep up company drill and company rifle shooting, thereby enabling officers commanding battalions, when performing their annual drill under canvass, devoting all that time (limited) to that branch of drill and field movements, which can only be made available at that time.

The general appearance, physique and efficiency of the force, still continues unimpaired.

The same desire and willingness to turn out and defend their flag and their country still animates the force as strongly now as ever.

The Return required of the rifle matches held in my District, will be forwarded in a few days.

It gives me pleasure to add that I have received the same cordial support and aid from the officers of the staff of the District, in the performance of their respective duties.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

WM. S. DURIE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 2.