

need. To get these recruits fit to take the place in the ranks gave the instructors enough to do, but officers and men worked with a will, and in a very short time recruits were able to fall in with arms at battalion drill.

On the 29th of June the Montreal Field Battery under the command of Lieut. Col. Stevenson, joined the camp for four days' drill. The horses were picketed and guns parked in the barrack square. There were no tents at the disposal of the officer commanding; the officers and men of the battery were quartered in the barracks. The Battery made good use of its short time in camp by constant drill, and were inspected by Lieut. Colonel Strange on the 2nd July, on the evening of which day the battery left camp.

The whole of the troops in camp paraded on the 1st July, (*Dominion Day*) and fired a "*Feu de joie*" in honor of the day; the firing was very well done.

On the 4th July, His Excellency the Governor General Lord Dufferin, and Staff, with the Adjutant General of Militia, visited the camp and inspected the troops.

The cavalry and infantry were drawn up in line in front of the camp, and received His Excellency with a salute. He then proceeded down the ranks inspecting the men closely, after which the line was broken into column, and the corps marched past. Line of columns was then formed, one batt thrown out as skirmishers, and an advance was made; but as His Excellency's time was limited, only a few field movements were gone through with. At the close of the parade His Excellency presented the prizes won at target practice, and addressed the officers and men in a heart stirring speech, which was most enthusiastically received as shown by the hearty cheers given for the Queen and Her Representative, Lord Dufferin. His Lordship with the Adjutant General, then inspected the tents, and expressed himself pleased with the cleanliness and order of the camp. After parade His Excellency held a levee in the Barracks, when all the officers in camp were presented to him. The visit of His Excellency, and the Adjutant General gave great *clat* to the camp, and was highly appreciated by the officers and men. It proved an incentive to increased effort towards efficiency.

TARGET PRACTICE.

This part of the drill was carried on efficiently and with despatch under the supervision of the Instructor of Musketry, Capt. Amyrauld, of the Shefford Field Battery, assisted by Lieut. Hodge, 79th Battalion. All the men were exercised and put through the course in five days. The great number of recruits who fired for the first time kept the average low. The following is the order in which the corps stand in the *Figure of Merit*.

Fig. of Merit.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 50th Batt. | 14.51 |
| 60th do | 18.17 |
| 51st do | 12.50 |
| 52nd do | 11.33 |
| 79th do | 10.07 |
| Huntingdon Troop of Cavalry | 7.19 |
| Missisquoi Troop of Cavalry | 7.15 |
| 21st Batt. | 7.10 |
| Brome Troop of Cavalry | 6.36 |

The cavalry fired 10 rounds per man only. The infantry 15 each.

The troops of cavalry being over their two-thirds strength entitled their best shots to prizes. There were only three companies of infantry that came up to the required strength to take prizes.

The winners of prizes were:

| | Points |
|--|--------|
| Huntingdon Troop, Cooper Gates | 20 |
| Missisquoi " " Mandigo | 20 |
| Brome " " Good | 18 |
| No. 2 Company, 51st Batt. Sgt. Cotting | 32 |
| No. 5 Company, 52nd Batt. Corp Powers | 37 |
| No. 1 Company, 77th Batt. Pte. Wright. | 32 |

The best shot in the brigade was Sergeant Smith of No. 4 Company 50th Battalion, who made 43 points, but received no prize because his company and battalion was below the strength. He may be fortunate enough to get the District prize. I would here beg to suggest that a brigade prize be added to the others as a further encouragement to rifle practice. Annexed is a tabular return of the target practice in camp.

CAMP AND CAMP EQUIPAGE.

The duties of Camp Quartermaster were efficiently performed by Lieut. Col. M. L. Moore formerly of the 69th Regiment. Under his supervision the camp was kept in a clean and salubrious state. The duty of taking over the camp equipage devolves now upon the Camp Quartermaster, and is a laborious one at any time, but when a number of corps are marching out of camp at the same hour (and that an early one) to take the train, as was the case with four battalions at Laprairie, it is impossible for that officer to count every article and ascertain to what corps the deficiencies are to be charged. The blankets are delivered in bundles or valises, the tent pins in bags, and the numbers given by the Quartermasters of corps are taken for granted as correct. The deficiency cannot be found out till every article is counted over and examined. To obviate the difficulty, I would recommend that a party of two from each corps remain behind to count every article given by their respective corp.

SUPPLIES.

The rations supplied were of the best quality, were abundant, and gave good satisfaction. No complaints were heard. A good and ample supply of water was furnished by water carts, and proper care was taken of the water butts, so that no complaints was made as in 1871, of the short supply of and impure state of the water. The fuel wood used was tamarack in preference to maple, and was a saving of \$2 per cord. Many of the companies have adopted an improved boiler of cylinder shape, with a lid on the side, this when laid on two bars of iron placed across the trench, is heated with one half the fuel required with ordinary shaped boilers. The barley was appreciated as a valuable addition to the rations. So well pleased have the men been with the rations and their treatment at camp this year that the officers have repeatedly informed me that they expect to have larger musters next year.

Captain Brosseau, of the 21st Battalion, acted as Supply Officer, and performed the duties with zeal and efficiency. Major McNaughton, 51st Battalion, Acting Brigade Major, and Lieut. Baker, 69th Battalion, Orderly were efficient, and rendered valuable assistance to the commanding officer.

To the whole of the staff, and to the commanding officers of corps, Lieut. Colonels Lovelace, Stevenson, Marchand, and McEachren, Rogers, Miller, Rowe, and Hall, my warmest thanks are due for the cordial support given me in carrying out the routine of

drill and duty, and the maintenance of order and discipline in the camp; the efforts of the commanding officers were cheerfully seconded by the officers and non commissioned officers under their command.

The behaviour of the men was excellent there were only two cases during the whole encampment involving punishment.

The District Paymaster, Capt. Hon. M. Aylmer, mustered every officer, man and horse in camp. The duty of examining the acquittance rolls and paying the troops and companies was most efficiently and satisfactorily performed.

OFFICERS' MESS.

An officers' mess was established in each battalion, and worked well. It is an absolute necessity wherever practicable, that officers should mess together. To carry the system out properly, commanding officers should have the authority to assess the members of the mess, and compel payment for their share of mess expenses, whether present or absent at meals, as in the regular service.

MEDICAL AND SANITARY REGULATIONS.

I have much pleasure in reporting, that the medical officers were efficient and diligent in the discharge of their duties. The sanitary regulations were properly carried out under their direction.

BATTERIES OF ARTILLERY.

The St. John Battery of Garrison Artillery under Major Drum, went into camp on St. Helen's Island, on the 10th July for 16 days drill. The battery was inspected by Lieut. Colonel Strange, Inspector of Artillery for the Province of Quebec. The officers and men were highly pleased with the camp and drill instruction received there. The corps mustered 3 officers and 32 non commissioned officers and gunners, and are a fine body of men.

The Shefford Field Battery under the command of Captain Amyrauld, was organized last spring. Neither small arms, guns or saddlery have been as yet issued to it. The battery went into camp on St. Helen's Island on the 26th September for sixteen days drill without horses. The drill was carried on under the supervision of the officers of "B" Battery. The corps mustered strong—5 officers and 60 non commissioned officers and gunners. They are all able bodied and active young men. For a report of the drill and inspection of these batteries, I beg to refer you to Lieutenant Colonel Strange's report.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. FRETHER, Lieut. Col.

Brigade Major,

Commanding Camp at Laprairie.

HEAD QUARTERS, 3rd Brigade Division,

MILITARY DISTRICT, No. 3.

SHERRBROOKE, Oct. 1871.

SIR.—I have the honor to inform you that the total strength of the force in the 3rd Brigade Division when mustered at the annual drill for 1872-73, was 882. There are 552 officers and men wanting to complete.