

Military College, to include those who had passed out in former years, Lieut. Stairs accepted a commission in the Royal Engineers, and was gazetted to that Corps on the 30th June, 1885.

The facts connected with his selection as the engineer officer to accompany Mr. H. M. Stanley, and his connection with the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition are so well known that it requires no further comment here; sufficient to quote the opinion of Mr. Stanley as to the capabilities and qualities of the late officer, who expressed himself as follows: "A finer man and a better soldier I never knew. He had the ability and courage to lead any expedition no matter how arduous. A splendid officer, intelligent, daring, and the soul of honour, and one of the best of fellows."

On his return from the Dark Continent, in December, 1890, Stairs was honoured in a special manner, the occasion being a dinner by the Canada Club, of London, and the presentation by Sir Charles Tupper, on behalf of the corporation and citizens of Halifax, of a handsome piece of plate.

Captain Stairs by permission and with the license and authority of Her Majesty the Queen, was permitted to accept and wear the insignia of the Order of the Medjidieh of the third class, which the Khedive of Egypt, authorized by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, had been pleased to confer upon him in recognition of his services in effecting the deliverance of Emin Pasha.

He was appointed Adjutant of the Royal Engineers, which position he held from the 7th June, 1890, to the 24th March, 1891, when he accepted a Captaincy in the Welsh Regiment, being the first instance in which promotion had been given in the regiment by selection outside since the abolition of purchase. At the time of his appointment he was the youngest soldier on the list of captains in the line.

On the 18th May, 1891, he was granted leave for special extra regimental employment, and was in command of the Katanga Expedition from the east coast into the heart of the Dark Continent. His task was accomplished and he was homewards bound when he died. Hardships and malaria are supposed to have been the cause.

His loss is a national one, and the sad ending to his splendid career is regretted not only in Canada but in England as well.

The Royal Military College Club has thus sustained another severe loss and in connection with same it may be stated that not long since Captain Stairs liberally subscribed towards the

erection of a suitable memorial to the memory of the late Captain H. B. Mackay, R.E., D.S.O., who died of fever contracted in Africa.

The climate of Africa has been the direct cause of the death of three ex-cadets in the persons of Capt. E. A. Denison, late Staffordshire Regiment of Militia; Capt. H. B. Mackay, late Royal Engineers and Capt. W. G. Stairs, late Welsh Regiment, to which must be added the name of Capt. W. H. Robinson, late Royal Engineers, who was killed in action at Tambi.

R.M.C. No. 47.

#### THE NIAGARA CAMP.

Tuesday, 14th inst., saw the beginning of military life for many men of No. 2 District, for on that day the regiments selected for the camp at Niagara took the route. On the 11th, No. 2 Company R.C.I. arrived on the ground and began to erect tents and to generally make ready for the incoming corps, who commenced to arrive early on the 14th. The first detachment to reach the ground was from Port Colborne, being half of the Welland Field Battery, under Lieut. Jarvis; they were soon followed by 4 companies of the 12th Battalion "York Rangers," who came over from Toronto on the "Cibola." The remaining battalions came in during the afternoon, and by dusk everything was in ship-shape order for routine work.

The regiments under canvas are as follows:

CAVALRY.	
2nd Regiment Dragoons, Lieut.-Col. Gregory in command, 5 troops, mustering of all ranks.....	229
ARTILLERY.	
Toronto Field Battery, under Major Mead. Total strength.....	83
Hamilton Field Battery, under Major Van Wagner. Total strength.....	79
Welland Canal Field Battery, under Major King. Total strength.....	78
First Brigade Field Artillery, under Lieut.-Col. Macdonald. Two batteries. Total strength.....	159
Total guns, 20.	

INFANTRY.	
	Strength.
No. 2 Company, R.C.I.....	106
12th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Wayling in command. 8 companies.....	341
35th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. O'Donovan. 7 companies.....	308
35th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. O'Brien. 8 companies.....	363
36th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Tyrwhitt. 8 companies.....	362
37th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Davis. 7 companies.....	287
77th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Gwyn. 6 companies.....	243

On the morning of the 15th inst., work began in earnest, and has continued steadily throughout the week; the result is decidedly satisfactory. Major-General Herbert arrived on the

15th and remained until the 20th, devoting himself to close attention to and supervising of the various parades and drills, and to a minute inspection of the men in camp. A wise act was his in ordering a special medical examination to be made of 23 men who appeared physically unfit for duty; the result of this was that 16 were found to be under the standard of fitness, and were returned to their local headquarters.

The drill practised has been largely squad, company and manual, while target practice has been carried out by rotation of companies from the various battalions. Extended order work has so far had comparatively little attention. This year to as great a degree as in the past, the efforts of the instruction staff are largely neutralized by the fact that a very large number of the men are recruits, and have to be grounded in the minutiae of squad and arm drill to such an extent as to give little time for the more useful work of the Attack, etc.

The camp has been an uncommonly healthy one, very few cases of illness having been reported.

It is expected that the camp will begin to break up on 24th and 25th inst.

#### THE LONDON CAMP.

The annual encampment of the rural battalions of the First Military District began at Carling's Heights, near London, on 21st inst. The establishment is as follows:

Commandant—Lieut.-Col. Smith, D.A.G.  
 Brigade-Major—Lieut.-Col. the Hon. M. Aylmer.  
 Supply Officer—Major W. W. White.  
 Quartermaster—Major Vidal.  
 Musketry Instructor—Captain Cartwright.  
 Orderly Officer—Capt. Wadmore.  
 Principal Medical Officer—Surgeon Hanavan.

#### CAVALRY.

First Regiment, Lieut.-Col. Gartshore.

#### ARTILLERY.

London Field Battery, under Lieut.-Col. Peters.

#### INFANTRY.

No. 1 Company, Regiment Canadian Infantry.  
 21st Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Beattie in command.  
 22nd Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Munro in command.  
 27th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Ellis in command.  
 29th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Cowan in command.  
 32nd Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Scott in command.