

and from his flattering reference to the militia in his opening chapter it is evident that they will receive all the credit they deserve, even if criticism should be necessary in the interest of truth.

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The assumption of English writers that the tactical methods adopted by the Germans in 1870—particularly their use of skirmishers and small columns—were the result of deliberate conviction, is controverted by the Army and Navy Gazette. It traces the bias towards these methods back to the French armies of the Revolution, which, owing to a want of drill and discipline, failed to fight in line according to the system of Frederic the Great, whose fundamental principle had been to place the weight of the attack in the first line; to march his line as close in to the enemy as possible, and then to overwhelm him by “the greatest development of infantry fire under the most careful supervision and control.” The French lines, plentiful in number and enthusiasm, but half trained, could not be brought up, according to our contemporary, to the infantry duel in line at short ranges, and so fell back upon endeavoring to wear out their antagonists by a skirmishing fire fed constantly from the rear. By years of practice the French became adepts at this style of fighting, which may be called that of attrition, while the Prussians, in a long period of inaction, became wooden and unwieldy in their own chosen method of line fighting.

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Auerstadt, for example, with a good superiority of numbers available, they refused to use their reserve to aid their hard pressed forces in front, lest it might be needed to cover a retreat. “As a consequence of this misfortune, this idea of retaining the third line or reserve to protect a possible retreat has been since given up by every other army but our own: the world, it being generally felt that it is a wiser application of force to ensure success rather than to protect a retreat which in all probability would not take place but for the retention of the very battalions whose action might turn the scale. Besides, it is also held that the guns that remain in position until the success of the attack is secure from a better screen to rally behind in the event of failure. The idea that a third line can overtake and pursue a beaten enemy who has already, from the nature of things, secured a two mile start at least, is puerile. Line tactics having apparently broken down, the Prussians went over to skirmishers and small columns with more zeal than discretion, and definitely adopted the method of ‘attrition’ in prefer-

ence to Frederic’s idea of a blow. Even Clausewitz failed to perceive the distinction and during the long peace the conception of ‘attrition’ became fairly stereotyped.” But our contemporary holds that line tactics really did not break down they being really rather only improperly applied. This misapplication was manifest at Jena, and yet the line system itself was held to be at fault.

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Germany, therefore, as our contemporary argues, had acquired simply a bias for skirmishing and line formations in 1870, and the advent of the breech-loader had increased it. But some years after the war, we are assured, a reaction took place among the younger officers. “Recognizing that there had been war before Napoleon, and feeling that something was wanting in the claim of justification of existing forms, they disinterred the old Frederician principles both for cavalry and infantry. With the former they were successful within a few years, but with the latter they are only now beginning to make progress, and hardly yet see the goal to which they will inevitably be led. Briefly, that principle is, and for us it is of extreme importance in the probable absence of numerical superiority on our side, that in fighting it is the first blow depends on the delivery of the fire of the maximum possible number of rifles in the minimum of time at the shortest range, and this result can be attained by line formations alone.” Perhaps this view is worth consideration among the criticisms of our Drill Regulations which are now rife.

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades.

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TORONTO.

At the annual carbine practice of the G.G.B.G., held during last camp, the following made the highest scores in their respective troops, and won the crossed carbines, viz., “A” Troop, Sergeant-Major Flint; “B” Troop, Trumpeter Hawkes; “C” Troop, Trumpet-Major Belcher; “D” Troop, Trooper Button.

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Troop Sergeant Major Bacon of “D” Troop, G.G.B.G., contemplates taking a course at the cavalry school.

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The many friends of Staff Sergeant Somers will be pleased to learn that he has entirely recovered and is able to be around again.

Lt.-Col. G. T. Denison has issued a regimental order regarding the dress of the non-commissioned officers of the Body Guard.

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The annual meeting of Body Guard Trumpeters’ mess was held in their rooms on Wednesday evening, Nov. 1st, when the following officers were elected for 1894: President, Trumpeter Warner; Sec. Tres. Trumpeter F. P. Belcher; Committee, Trumpet-Corporal Duncan, Trumpeter Smith and Trumpeter Cameron.

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Lt.-Col. Quinn of the Body Guard is at present in the Northwest, but is expected home shortly.

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The following members of the G.G.B.G. are article to the cavalry school for short courses of instruction: Corporal Hines and Trooper Mulholland “A” Troop, Trooper Baitson “C” Troop, and Trooper Barnard “D” Troop.

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The Governor-General’s Body Guard furnished an escort of one troop, under command of Major Denison and Lieuts. Denison and Peters, for His Excellency the Governor-General on the occasion of his reception in the Parliament buildings on Saturday, Oct. 28th. The regiment has furnished a number of escorts during the past, but never before have they turned out as good a lot of men and horses. His Excellency complimented the regiment very highly.

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Captain Thompson, paymaster of the Body Guard, is acting as president of the band committee during Lt.-Col. Dunn’s absence.

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The officers of the 48th Highlanders will in future wear a different mess uniform. Hitherto the order for mess was the red mess jacket and vest with trowsers. In future the officers will wear the real mess jacket and vest, with dress shoes, dirk, skene, dhu, sporran, kilt, plaid, etc. The change will be a great improvement.

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The Grenadiers turned out 575 strong on the night of the 16th for the annual roll call by the deputy adjutant-general, Lieut.-Col. Otter, and for the presentation of shooting prizes by Messdames, Mason, Bruce and Harston. The bulk of the prizes seemed to go to A and I companies and the drum and ambulance corps. After the parade the officers entertained their friends in the anteroom, while the band, under bandmaster Waldron, discoursed sweet music on the floor of the shed.

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The 48th Highlanders mustered on the night of Nov. 17 at the Armory over four hundred strong, under the command of Lt.-Col. Davidson. Lieut.-Col. Graveley, district paymaster, and Captain Macdougall were present, and called the rolls, while the regiment passed man by man before them. The regiment was about fifty over strength.

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The talk of the month, of course, has been the Thanksgiving Day sham fight. It is