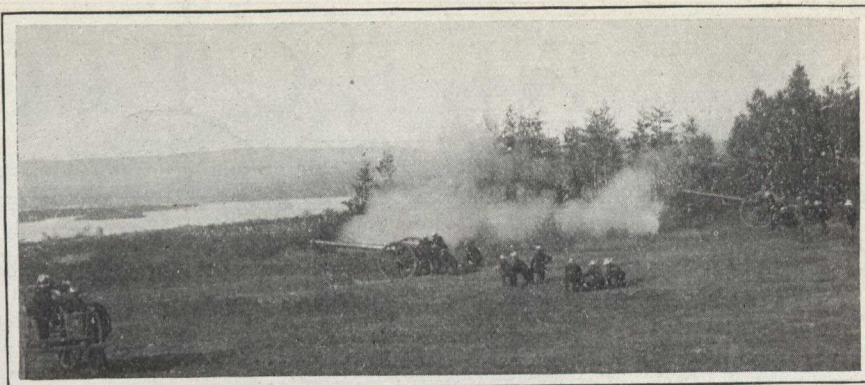




Field Artillery proceeding to Rendezvous



Firing a 4.7 Gun; Range of Shot being Five Miles.

IN PETAWAWA CAMP

Observations at Canada's Greatest Military Training Ground

By E. J. PHILLIPS

TWELVE miles north of Pembroke, on the banks of the Ottawa River, and with the rushing Petawawa River flowing through it, lies Petawawa camp.

The permanent conditions of Petawawa camp are on a larger scale than has ever before been attempted in Canada. The actual camp ground covers two square miles, every portion of which is in plain view from headquarters, and the buildings cover over one hundred acres. There is permanent accommodation for 1,600 men and 650 horses. There are sixty main buildings which serve for administrative purposes, stores, and the various messes. There is a modern water service, complete sewerage system, with septic tanks,



Camp Mascot.

fire protection that has quite recently proved its worth, more than three miles of stone roads, and an acetylene gas plant that reaches every part of the warbian city. The main line of the C. P. R. runs through the grounds, and there are seven sidings for military use at the station. Given in the first place, a stretch of country that offered no restrictions beyond those imposed by nature, the military authorities have been able to plan every detail as an essential to the vast whole; and that no detail has lacked consideration in the great general plan becomes more apparent as one's acquaintance with the camp increases. This is a theatre of mimic war that might stir the imagination of the most unskilled, and yet it lacks none of the essentials to serve the purpose of the most ardent student of national defence.

Petawawa camp is under the control of the permanent forces of Militia and Defence, and is officered from the departmental units ordinarily stationed at Quebec and Kingston. Detachments of the various artillery, cavalry, engineer, and other permanent corps are quartered in camp from April to September, entire batteries and troops being in service during June, July, and August. These three months constitute the training period for the active militia artillery and cavalry units from twelve to sixteen days being spent in camp by each regiment. The only infantry to camp at Petawawa this year will be the permanent force.

The average citizen has more or less personal knowledge of infantry camp life, and even this is considered a period of somewhat arduous training for the citizen soldier devoid of "seasoning." Artillery and cavalry camp routine goes farther into the realm of the strenuous life, and it is usually a tired bunch of soldier boys who sleep on the banks of the Petawawa. Target practice, with any of the big guns, is not a question of actual firing alone. It means in every case an intricacy of manoeuvring that gives both men and horses a fair share of hard work. For instance, a battery leaves camp with orders to take up a certain position, without revealing itself to a supposed enemy. Reaching the designated position, the officer in command opens his sealed orders, and learns that it is his duty to dislodge a regiment of infantry, partially concealed in a thicket three miles away in a given direction. The "regi-

ment" is represented by so many twelve-inch planks driven into the ground, and this is the target. The casualties among the planks after the firing ceases, tell the tale of efficiency or otherwise to the umpires in charge. The next target may be a supposed battery of the enemy in a concealed position, and this must be put out of action, or again, a disappearing target is the aim, usually represented by a certain number of cavalry or infantry, or both, who show themselves for a period of a few seconds to the gunners and disappear again. The bursting point of the shell is what counts for accuracy in this case. It will thus be understood that movement is a big part of the programme.

The permanent artillery forces, A. and B. Batteries, R. C. H. A., from Kingston, and the Garrison Artillery, from Quebec, with Col. Burstall as Camp Commandant, are already in camp. From June 5th to June 19th there will be fifteen batteries of active militia, and three regiments of cavalry, beside several departmental units, and the instructional staffs from the permanent corps. Artillerymen from as far east as Halifax, N.S., and as far west as Victoria, B.C., will take part in firing competitions.

The fifteen complete batteries to go to camp this year will be as follows: 9th R. C. F. A., Toronto; 4th, Hamilton; 2nd and 23rd, Ottawa; 6th, London; 5th, Kingston; 8th, Gananoque; 11th and 16th, Guelph; 14th, Cobourg; 24th, Peterboro'; 15th, Granby; 22nd, Sherbrooke; 3rd, Montreal; and 21st, Westmount.

Detachments from the 7th Regiment of Heavy Artillery of Nova Scotia, and the 17th 10th, 12th, 19th, 13th, and 25th Batteries will shoot during July and August.

The guns in use at Petawawa vary from the old style 12-pounder to the big 4.7 garrison defence gun, and the ranges are from one to five miles. Service shells are used, generally loaded with shrapnel. The heavy guns use the ranges along the shore of the Ottawa River, north of the C. P. R., and the field artillery do their firing to the south of the railway tracks. The most modern gun in camp is the 18-pounder quick firer, although another season may find the new 13-pounder superseding the 12-pounder for the horse artillery.

Where the Petawawa Militia and Defence were not in search of a beauty spot when they located here, but standing on the eminence of Headquarters Hill, and looking west and north over the artillery ranges, one comes to the conclusion that a much more glorious panorama of nature could scarce be found. The picture of the ranges, accompanying this article, but serves to show the inadequacy of any man-made camera to do this expanse of scenery justice. The upper stretches of the Ottawa River are emerging from the wilderness, and commencing to be bordered by a share of peaceful pastoral that signifies civilization and the pursuit of agriculture. Some day, when the Georgian Bay Canal is built, tourists by the thousands may exclaim over the wonderful scenic beauties of this great waterway, where now but few have sought or found it. There is enough of the wilderness left to give the soldier elbow-room, and with it, a wealth of natural beauty, a plentitude of bracing air, rich-scented with piney odours, and a completeness of health-giving surroundings that is bound to send the citizen soldier home after his training period, not only a better soldier, but a healthier man.



General French and his Staff.



A 12-pounder Ready for Action and Awaiting Orders



Firing an 18-pounder; Gunner H. Constantine commanding.



Colonel Benson and his Staff.