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**Aldershot an Ideal Camp and Splendid Location**

U. S. Army Officer, Major J. T. Greeley, Inspects Camp

An Interview by Sergt J. D. Logan, 85th. Batt.

For ideal location and for modern sanitation Aldershot takes a unique place amongst the military camps on the American continent.

This is the deliberate view of Major James T. Greeley, of Nashua, New Hampshire, who spent a few days of last week, as a guest of Colonel W. E. Thompson, Camp Commandant, and who made, under escort of the latter, a thorough inspection of the topography.

**FROM POINTS WEST OF KENTVILLE**

Special Train leaves Kingsport 11.33 a. m., fare 85c; Auburn 11.43 a. m., 70c; Aylesford 12.13 p. m., 70c. Comparisons with military camps in the United States, which, while Major and Medical Officer in the First New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, during the Spanish-American War, he knew at first hand. With the health and sanitation of several camps, but more particularly with that of Chickamauga Park, where 75,000 men were mobilized at one time, Major Greeley had much concern and much to do. His appreciation of Aldershot Camp given in an interview solicited by The Nova Scotia Highlander is, therefore, as noteworthy as it is authoritative.

**Sanitary Soil**

Beginning with the physiography of Aldershot Camp, Major Greeley observed that the Camp was naturally sanitary, owing to the fact that the sandy soil assisted the rains to be drained off through percolation. No matter how heavy a rain might fall, the surface of the soil would soon be dry under foot. In most camps that he had visited, heavy rains meant sloppy travel and wet, heavy mud under foot for several hours and sometimes days—thus menacing the health of soldiers. The surface soil of Aldershot Camp quickly dried, and was a natural aid to conserving good health amongst soldiers. Major Greeley remarked, too, the delicious air, the wealth of sunlight, and the good quality of the water. "Physically taken," he said, "Aldershot is ideally located for a sanitary military training camp. In fact, I have not seen elsewhere its equal."

**Absence of Flies**

Another advantage that Major Greeley observed as singular was the absence of flies in Aldershot Camp. It would only be natural to expect that in a place where there were, as it were, open-air kitchens and dining tables, scores of lustrines, great quantities of garbage and the possibility of debris of all sorts, flies would be swarming in myriads. That there were no flies relatively, was due, in Major Greeley's opinion, to the splendid system or methods of sanitation employed in Aldershot Camp.

In this connection Major Greeley was struck also with the absence of disagreeable and putrid odors, especially about the lustrines. However much this absence of odors might be due to the method of sanitation, Major Greeley was inclined to give the credit to the stringency with which the orders for sanitation of the Camp lustrines were carried out and to the appreciation, both on the part of the military authorities and of the men in Camp, of the absolute necessity for nothing but perfect sanitation. Something, too, was noteworthy about the disposal of the debris—from the kitchens, out-door tables, tents, canteens, mess-marquees, and so on. Here again Major Greeley noted the thoroughness and efficiency.

**Ideal Hospital**

Major Greeley regarded the fact that the Camp Hospital almost adjoined the Camp lines

and was situated on an acclivity considerably above the level of the drill and parade grounds as making for ideal location. But he was much more impressed with the wards, departments, and equipment of the Hospital. He noted particularly the allotment of eight cots in each small tent. "This provision," said Maj. Greeley, "is much better than having many cots in a large hospital tent. It assures better ventilation; there is no mingling of men suffering all sorts of illness; and each patient gets individual attention, that is to say, the best attention possible."

He also favorably remarked the employment of female trained nurses. In his own experience, he had to be satisfied with male nurses sent to him from the ranks in camp. It was impossible for these to be efficient and trustworthy. But the female trained nurses were as efficient and trustworthy as they were neat in their pretty uniforms, and had the tidy, smart, business-like appearance of real nurses on duty.

**Dental Department**

The new hospital building, which is being erected for operating and consulting "is certainly," said Major Greeley, "a step in the right direction. But, in my opinion, the equipment and work being done by the Dental Department are really splendid. In the past it was believed that a soldier with ailments or soreness in his feet, or any other part of his exterior anatomy should be at once taken in hand and cured. It had not occurred to the military authorities that a soldier with bad or aching teeth made an inefficient soldier, and the sanitation of soldiers' teeth was neglected. I am glad to see that in Aldershot dental sanitation is splendidly taken care of. The department is equipped to extract teeth, fill teeth, and make teeth. I admire, too, your dental chairs, which are so constructed as to be good chairs for operating and also suitable for folding into small, compact space for shipment."

**Cooks, Kitchens, Etc**

Major Greeley was much taken with the methods and efficiency of the Camp cooks, kitchens and bake-shop, as well as with the quality of the food and the general service. "In my experience as a medical officer," he said, "I found that good cooks are a very important factor in maintaining the spirits and efficiency of a company or battalion of soldiers. A soldier well fed is a soldier in good spirits, and a soldier in good spirits is apt to take to arduous training, and thus to become efficient, with the grace and ease of a man training for field and track sports. Work becomes play. All this depends on the intelligence and skill of the camp cooks. For the personal health of soldiers largely depends on the quality and the preparation of the food they eat."

"At Aldershot Camp," continued Major Greeley, "I note that your cooks are skillful, the food excellent and well served; the kitchens are wonderfully clean and sweet, the absence of debris, flies, and unwholesome odors being very striking. In your bakeshop I ate some of the bread made there, some a day old and some cooked the day I visited. The quality of the bread was excellent in both instances."

In concluding his interview, Major Greeley observed significantly: "In general in military camps an allowance of two per cent of sickness is the rule. In Aldershot Camp the records show less than one per cent. That is an astonishing fact, and remarkable testimony to the healthfulness of the Camp."



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