

ed by the District Paymaster, Major Alger, in the presence of Lieut. Col. Denison, Drill Instructor. The two Field Batteries remained in camp, according to order, in order to finish their shot and shell practice. These batteries were inspected by Lieut. Col. Irwin, Assistant Inspector of Artillery.

CAMP, HOLLAND LANDING.

Brigade State.

Superintendent of Drill, Lieut. Col. Denison, Brevet Major; Brigade Major, Major Bligh, 35th Battalion; Supply Officer, Major Selby, 12th Battalion; Camp Quartermaster, Major Moore, 13th Battalion; Musketry Instructor, Captain White, 12th Battalion; Orderly Officer, Cornet Denison, Governor General's Body Guard; Officer in charge of Camp Police, Ensign Perritt, 31st Battalion. The camp was composed of the following corps:—

Governor General's Body Guard, 2 officers, 42 non commissioned officers and men, 44 horses.

2nd Regiment of Cavalry (2 Troops) 4 officers, 84 non commissioned officers and men, 88 horses.

Toronto Field Battery, 5 officers, 75 non commissioned officers and men, 55 horses.

12th Battalion, 23 officers, 335 non commissioned officers and men, 4 horses.

31st Battalion, 17 officers, 295 non commissioned officers and men, 4 horses.

34th Battalion, 16 officers, 287 non commissioned officers and men, 4 horses.

35th Battalion, 24 officers, 413 non commissioned officers and men, 4 horses.

36th Battalion, 18 officers, 362 non commissioned officers and men, 4 horses.

Brigade Staff, 8 officers, 6 non commissioned officers, 8 horses. Total, officers 117, non commissioned officers and men 1,899, horses 215.

The above force assembled and went under canvas on the 22nd June, for twelve days' drill.

The same routine of drill and duties and issue of rations was carried out in this camp which took place at Niagara. The muster of the different corps very good. General behaviour and health of the men, good. One or two cases of typhoid fever reported. Rations equally as good, and well supplied by contractors. Cost of rations per man, 10 cents; cost of the forage rations, 50 cents.

The camp was visited and inspected by Major General Selby Smyth, Commanding the Militia, accompanied by his A. D. C., Capt. the Hon. Miles Stapleton, on the 20th June. The force paraded in brigade on the afternoon of that day, when a field day took place in the presence of the Major General, at the termination of which he again expressed himself a favourable terms on the appearance of the whole force on parade, and the manner in which they moved in the field.

On the 1st July a brigade parade took place, in honor of Dominion Day, on which occasion a *feu de joie* was fired, with a few brigade movements. An immense concourse of people from all parts of the country, estimated at 10,000, assembled to see the troops. No accident occurred. The camp broke up on Saturday, the 3rd July. The force, having been duly mustered by the District Paymaster, Major Alger, and paid, then proceeded homewards.

Target Practice.

I beg leave to forward the enclosed reports of Capt. Johnston, Musketry Instructor at Niagara Camp (marked A), and Capt. White, 34th Battalion, Musketry Instructor

at the Camp at Holland Landing (marked B).

On reference to these reports it will be seen that at the

CAMP NIAGARA,

The brigade figure of merit was, 18-14.

Best shooting Battalion, 20th Battalion, figure of merit 26-30.

Best shooting Troop, No. 1 Troop, 2nd Regiment, figure of merit 16-43.

Best shooting Company, No. 5 Company, 20th Battalion, figure of merit 33-40.

Best shot in Brigade, Color Sergt. Brady, 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles, 66 pts.

AT HOLLAND LANDING.

Brigade figure of merit 18-53.

Best shooting Battalion, 35th Battalion, figure of merit 22-02.

Best shooting Troop, No. 3 Troop, 2nd Regiment, figure of merit 15-22.

Best shooting Company, No. 4 Company, 35th Battalion, figure of merit 28-00.

Best shot in Brigade, Corpl. Shaver, No. 7 Company, 31st Battalion, 63 pts.

Both the officers recommend a fewer number of rounds to be fired by the rank and file (20 rounds having been fired), or more time given, in order to afford instruction in the rifle practice.

The 600 yards range appears to be a most difficult range for young shots, especially if there is any wind blowing across the range. Young shots, as a rule, fire at the target without making any allowance for windage, &c., and as the time permitted is so very limited, the Instructor is unable to give that instruction at the ranges, which is necessary to make them fire with any precision or accuracy.

I would therefore respectfully suggest and recommend, that instead of 12 days, 16 days be allowed in camp, when two or three days could be devoted entirely to musketry instruction, however short it would do much good, preparing the men for the rifle ranges. When it is considered how important a branch of military drill is "the use of the rifle" without it, the amount of ammunition must necessarily be thrown away therefore ineffective. The extra time, if sanctioned, would well repay the expenditure.

Out of 12 days' drill allowed, there must be two days required for proceeding to and returning from the camp and one Sunday; and the day before the camp breaks up is generally required for receiving pay, arranging the camp equipage, &c. Four days are thus taken out of the twelve; leaving but eight days, even if the weather be fine, during which time, squad, company, battalion skirmishing and brigade drill, together with the target practice, must be all carried out. It really is marvelous for so short a time, how well the men do.

The four extra days would well repay, more especially, as all the expense of moving the force to and from the camp, camp equipage and stores of all kinds, is all incurred for eight days' drill. In a word, the men leave the camp just at the time when three or four days' extra drill would be valuable.

The Young Men's Christian Association established themselves at both camps, offering every inducement for the non commissioned officers and men of the camp to attend their tents, in the way of pens, ink, paper, and the full newspapers, free of all charge.

Every afternoon and evening religious services were held, at which large numbers of the force attended, who expressed themselves much gratified by the kind manner in which they were treated by this Association.

It gives me more than ordinary pleasure to be able to bring before the notice of the Major General commanding, not only the great attention, but ability displayed by the officers on the Staff of the Brigade Camp, in the discharge of their various duties.

I beg also to acknowledge the able assistance I have always derived from the officers belonging to the permanent Staff of the District.

I must not omit to mention the zealous exertions of officers commanding corps, in the performance of their duties, and in carrying out the annual drill of the year.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. S. Durie,

Lt. Colonel,

Deputy Adjutant General,

Commanding Military District No. 2.

The Adjutant General of Militia, Ottawa.

[A.]

STEWARTTOWN, Aug. 18th, 1875.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit herewith, the practice returns of the 2nd Brigade, performed at the Brigade Camp, Niagara, from June 1st to 12th, inclusive.

It will be seen that the figure of merit of the Queen's Own Rifles is very low; this is accountable to the shooting at 600 yards, which was struck off immediately after they had done firing, and also to the unfavorable state of the weather. A much higher average in the whole brigade might be expected, were it not that two thirds of the men at practice had never previously fired a shot with a rifle. The advisability of dropping the 600 yards range, under such circumstances, can easily be seen, and I am of opinion that better results would follow under a different system of rifle practice while in brigade.

It will be seen that 2,287 men had to put in the practice in the short space of eight days, and fire 20 rounds per man, to accomplish which no man can receive any instruction whatever, but must rather be hurried on so as to get through with the work. To remedy this, I would suggest that no more than 10 rounds per man be fired; five rounds at 400, and that a sergeant, who understands the most important points in rifle shooting, be appointed to each squad or company, whose duty it would be to stay at the firing point and instruct every man when in act of shooting, regarding position, holding rifle plumb, bringing the sights to the eye, pull of trigger, &c.; the sergeants to be under the charge of the Musketry Instructor, whose duty it would be to see that they were thoroughly posted in these particulars.

I have much pleasure in saying that otherwise, the practice of the brigade has been most satisfactory, and without the slightest accidents either to the markers or firing parties. This is due, no doubt, to the proper construction of the markers huts, and also to the diligence of the commanding officers.

Before closing this report, I desire to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by Staff Sergeant Dunsford, and also to thank the officers, non commissioned officers and men of the brigade, for the courtesy extended to me, and their willingness to assist me in the discharge of my duties.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. JOHNSON,

Captain B. M. I.

To Lieut. Col. Durie, Dep'y Acting Adj.-Gen. Militia, Toronto.