

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF
THE MILITIA FOR 1872.

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To my Orderly Officer, Capt. R. W. Barrow, 14th Prince of Wales' Own Rifles, I am much indebted. His knowledge of the locality and of the duties of a soldier, and his endeavor to aid me in every possible manner, both in camp and on the drill field, was highly satisfactory. Being well mounted he never was behindhand in conveying an order, and I beg to recommend him to your favourable notice on future occasions, when similar duties may be in demand.

The Brigadiers, Lieut. Col. Ross, 16th Batt. and Lieut. Col. Smith, 40th Battalion, exerted themselves early and late to forward my views as to the preparatory exercises and drills for the field manoeuvres, which occupied the concluding days of the Division in camp.

Lieut. Colonel James F. McLeod, C.M. G., 45th Battalion, and Major Charles Boulton, rendered good service to their Brigadiers and to their division. They are both officers of reputation and skill in their profession. Well mounted, good horsemen, and possessed of tact and judgment, the duties of their position could not have been better performed. I have much pleasure in recommending to your favourable notice as staff officers.

The accompanying plan of the camp and ground and surrounding neighborhood was surveyed and drawn, during the camp as before stated by Lieut. Joseph W. Power, 14th Prince of Wales Own Rifles, at my request, and I trust that his talent as a surveyor and draughtsman, gratuitously employed on this occasion, may lead to his advancement in the service by the Militia Department.

The best shooting Battalion proved to be the 48th Lennox and Addington Battalion, whose figure of merit was 11.86. The next best was the 45th West. Durham—figure of merit, 11.45. The 47th. Frontenac came next—figure of merit 11.18. The District figure of merit is 10.03. The best shot in the District is Sergeant J. Baillie, 47th, No. 5 Company, whose score is 50 points. The second best is Sergeant Loyst, No. 1 Company, 48th—score, 45 points. The third best is Sergeant Marsh, No. 1 Company, 49th Rifles—score, 44 points.

The highest company figure of merit was obtained by No. 1 Company, (Tamworth) 48th Battalion, 19.22. The second highest was No. 5 Company, (Barrieffield) 47th Battalion 17.27. The third highest was No. 5 Company, (Milford), 16th Battalion, 14.04, Figure of merit, Sixth Brigade Division, comprising four battalions, 10.21. That of the 7th Brigade comprising six battalions, 9.95.

The Cavalry target practice being confined to two ranges only, and with carbines, and only half the troops having fired, was not taken into account when determining these figures of merit.

The following list shows the figure of merit of the best shooting company, and the best shot in each Battalion of Infantry:

No. 1 Company, Kingston. Figure of Merit 12.52.

14th Battalion, No. 5 Company, Kingston—Best shot: W. Hume, 35 points.

No. 4 Company, Belleville. Figure of Merit 10.47.

15th Battalion, No. 6 Company, Belleville—best shot: Private Chartors 38 points.

No. 5 Company, Milford. Figure of Merit 11.87.

16th Battalion, No. 7 Company, Roblin's Mills—best shot: Private Parliament, 38 points.

No. 1 Company, Cobourg. Figure of Merit, 11.87.

40th Battalion, No. 9 Company, Warkworth—best shot: Private Dawson, 35 points.

No. 6 Company, Lindsay. Figure of Merit 12.36.

45th Battalion, No. 2 Company, Orono—best shot: Sergeant Hobbs, 32 points.

No. 1 Company, Port Hope. Figure of Merit 11.50.

46th Battalion, No. 1 Company, Port Hope, and No. 6 Company, Janetville—best shots:—Sergt. Laurie, and Sergt. Trow, 33 points each.

No. 5 Company, Barrieffield. Figure of Merit 17.27.

47th Battalion, No. 5 Company, Barrieffield—best shot: Sergeant. J. Baillie, 50 points.

No. 1 Company, Tamworth. Figure of Merit, 19.22

48th Battalion, No. 1 Company, Tamworth—best shot: Sergeant Loyst, 45 points

No. 4 Company, Madoc. Figure of Merit 13.12.

49th Battalion, No. 4 Company, Belleville—best shot: Sergeant Marsh, 44 points.

No. 5 Company, Norwood, Figure of Merit 9.56.

57th Battalion, No. 5 Company, Peterborough—best shot: Private R. H. Smith; 32 points.

At shot and shell practice by the Kingston Field Battery, while in camp, the best shot was made by Sergeant Major John Wilnot, at 1,050 yards. I enclose the Battery report of practice furnished by the officer in command.

The arrangements made for the medical treatment of the men were sufficient. There were no hospital tents issued, but a vacant room in one of the stone cottages unoccupied at Point Frederick, was furnished for the accommodation of slight cases of sickness, while the more serious cases were either sent to the General Hospital at Kingston, or at once escorted back to their own homes. The Report of the Principal Medical officer in camp is attached. This officer gives a statement of the sanitary arrangements, and narrates the instances of disease which necessitated the removal of the men from camp. One case of erysipelas, one of febrile, one of scarlet fever, and the other of delirium tremens, are the most noticeable. Those who were capable of travelling were sent home, and those who were too ill to bear a journey were removed into the General Hospital and treated by the medi-

cal officers of that institution, at a charge of 50 cents a day for their sustenance. Some of the troopers received severe kicks from the horses in the ranks, and one man had his knee cap fractured, which detained him in the hospital for three weeks, but no casualty occurred resulting in death or permanent injury amongst the men. Two horses died during the camp training from causes explained in the reports of the veterinary surgeons, and claims have been made against the public, for their value by their owners.

Complaints were made by some of the surgeons, that the medicine chests issued by them did not contain all that was useful, nor what was represented to be in them, suggestions are offered as to clothing for the troops in hot weather, such as havelocks for the forage caps, and serge tunics for the heavy cloth ones.

The District Paymaster, Lieut. Col. Maxwell Strange, was attentive to the mustering of all corps when summoned for that duty. He issued the annual drill pay to each corps prior to their leaving the camp, and I have much satisfaction in bearing testimony to the efficiency of this officer as a paymaster.

The officers of the store department performed their functions with assiduity and despatch. The duty of issuing and receiving again into store all the camp equipage was carried out satisfactorily, under the superintendence of Lieut. Colonel Corbett, the store keeper at Kingston, who attended camp daily for the purpose of correcting mistakes made in the first issue by reason of regimental quartermasters demanding more tents and blankets than the actual strength of the corps present in the camp warranted. Many drew at first for the full strength authorized, and gave some trouble in readjusting the issues, as there was not sufficient tents and blankets to provide for more troops than were actually present, upon the scale of issue laid down in the General Orders and Regulations for the Annual Drill. The loss in camp equipage was not large, but several hundreds of tent pegs were broken or driven into the ground too tightly to be removed without breaking. Many tent poles broke from being made of bad material. At the final counting of tents and blankets, one tent was missing, and a large number of blankets. The tent was traced to the possession of an officer of the force, who had taken it away with the intention of paying the government price for it. But this practice is most reprehensible, and should be stopped by rigorous measures, and the price set upon these articles of equipment should be made higher than the same things can be got elsewhere, instead of much cheaper as at present, which is a temptation to some people to possess themselves at a moderate cost of something they are not likely to meet with at the same rate in other places. It is believed that many of the missing blankets were taken by the owners of horses, who in this manner, even if discovered, would have provided themselves with cheap horse clothing for the winter. Through the activity of the score officers and the Assistant Quartermaster General of the camp, the corps to whom missing articles were issued and not returned, are known, and charges for deficiencies noted against them; and I would strongly advocate the most unrelenting severity in dealing with those who thus appropriate to their own use the Government property, whenever they can be discovered.

Paragraph 48 of the regulations for annual drill desires that the District Paymaster