

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF  
THE MILITIA FOR 1873.

APPENDIX No. 2

(Continued from Page. 374.)

REPORT ON "A" BATTERY, SCHOOL OF GUNNERY.

KINGSTON, ONTARIO,  
November, 1873.

During the year ending 25th October, 1873, seven officers and 136 non com. officers and men joined this School. The numbers from each battery will be seen on reference to the subjoined list:—

Cops.	Offs.	N.-C.O. and Men.	Total
London Field Battery.....		7	7
Wollington Field Battery.....		7	7
Godolph Garrison Battery.....		2	2
Sarnia do.....		2	2
Toronto Field Battery.....		9	9
Wolland do.....			
Hamilton do.....			
Toronto Garrison Battery.....	1	11	12
Collingwood do.....			
St. Catharines do.....		21	21
Kingston Field Battery.....		27	27
Durham do.....		2	2
Port Hope Garrison Battery.....			
Cobourg do.....			
Napanco do.....	1		1
Trenton do.....		1	1
Ottawa Field Battery.....		1	1
Gananoque do.....	2	5	7
Ottawa Brigade Garrison Artillery	1	47	48
Iroquois Garrison Artillery.....			
77th Battalion.....	1		1
1st Regiment of Cavalry.....	1		1

However well a man may drill, no certificates are given unless the individuals can write correctly from dictation, and keep ordinary accounts; although this rule apparently works rather hardly on some men, yet when it is considered that a certificate almost certifies to the effect that the recipient is fit to hold a commission, I consider that great caution should be exercised in their bestowal.

The following certificates have been issued during the past year—

	1st class.	2nd class.
Officers.....	7	0
Non Com. Officers & Men	8	6

Two officers and forty three non-com. officers and men volunteered, and were accepted for service with the Artillery in Manitoba, and eight non com. officers and men received their discharges from the School, for the purpose of engaging in the Mounted Police recently raised for service in the North-West Territories.

In all seven officers and 136 non com. officers and men (representing more than the full strength of A battery) have joined the school during the year.

I think it highly gratifying that this School of Gunnery has so well answered the expectations formed of it: there is scarcely a battery in the whole Province of Ontario that has not had one or more officers, non com. officers, or men instructed thereat. Some officers commanding batteries refuse to make their men non-com. officers till they have passed through the School, and if this excellent rule was more generally adopted, the effect on the Artillery of the Province would be most marked.

I recommend that a higher grade of certificate should be given to officers who pass through the long course creditably, viz, A 1 and A 2 (First and Second Class Artillery), I trust this may be approved of,

I would hope that as Government has obtained several officers well qualified to act as instructors, their services may be more fully utilized. I consider that if an officer, a sergeant and two or three gunners, were sent to such places as Toronto, Hamilton, London, Guelph, Ottawa, &c., for a few months at a time, volunteer classes would be formed for instruction, and those desirous of receiving certificates might readily find time to come to Kingston for three weeks or a month (for instruction in Interior Economy, &c.) Thus in a great measure meeting the cases of those who would not possibly leave their business for 3 months, as now necessary.

A great number of men have been instructed in riding, driving, harnessing and stable duties, but I regret the few horses allowed for the battery (eight only) have prevented almost entirely the carrying out of any instruction in field Artillery manoeuvres. This is a very serious drawback in a Province where there are so many Field Batteries, and I would recommend that during the ensuing spring, whilst the price of horses is low, twenty more be purchased. I would also advise that all officers desirous of bringing horses of their own to the Schools of Gunnery, be allowed forage there for, provided their horses are available for the public service when required.

I must also express my regret that no instruction in the formation of rafts, and military bridges could be carried on owing to the want of the necessary materials, requisitions for which were forwarded nearly a year ago. For the formation of batteries and field works there is only one piece of public property in the vicinity suitable. I was informed that as that was held on lease by a tenant it could not be handed over to the School of Gunnery; this is to be regretted, as I consider the practical formation of earthworks and batteries a most essential subject of instruction for an artillery officer.

I have much pleasure in informing you that the present state of the school is very satisfactory. It is at its full strength in officers, non-com. officers and men; there is a large staff of instructors, both of officers and non-com. officers, available for instruction at the school or at out stations. The officers and sergeants messes are creditably kept up, and are clear of debt; there is a tolerably good library and reading and recreation room for the non com. officers and men, and a good library of military books for the officers.

The canteen supplies groceries, vegetables, beer, butter, &c., at wholesale rates, and is in a flourishing condition. Bar stock and stock in trade paid for, and a considerable surplus in hand, the profits being applied from time to time for the general benefit of the men, such as prizes for shooting, prizes for athletic games, purchase of machine for sawing wood, &c. &c. There is also an excellent brass band, all the men composing it having in the first instance been thoroughly trained Artillery men.

The Government of the Dominion having done me the honor of appointing me Commissioner of the Mounted Police being raised for service in the North West Territories, my connection with this School must necessarily close in a few days, I trust I may be allowed this opportunity of placing on record my thanks to all those who have contributed, in their respective spheres, to make the School of Gunnery what it is. To Major Cotton, Captain Holmes and Sergt-Major John Mortimer, who have been with me

from its commencement, and my thanks more especially due, and as I think their services are entitled to some consideration on the part of the Government, I trust they will not be removed from positions which they have done, and are doing, such good service, unless such removal is consequent on promotion.

In conclusion, I beg to state that it affords me the greatest satisfaction to know that I shall be succeeded in the post of Commandant by an officer who will, I feel certain, raise the School of Gunnery to a higher standard of efficiency than it has yet attained.

G. A. FRENCH, Lt.-Col.  
Commandant S. G.

KINGSTON Nov. 30th, 1873.

REPORT ON "B" BATTERY SCHOOL OF GUNNERY.

CITADEL, QUEBEC, 31st Dec. 1873.

Sir.—The accompanying return marked (C) shows the officers who during the current year have undergone long and short courses of instruction and examination, and obtained certificates. The subjects of instruction and the decimal proportion of credits gained are also shown.

I recommended last year (20th March, 1873) the enclosed form of certificates marked (D.) for the long course should be substituted for that in use, to suit the nature of instruction given, and a 3rd class certificate of proficiency in their drill, substituted for the "attendance certificate" for gunners who cannot write.

If the name of Artillery Schools was substituted for that of Gunnery, it would give a fairer idea of the subjects of instruction.

The examination questions of this year are appended.

Return (E.) shows the non-commissioned officers and gunners who have passed practical and written examinations, obtaining certificates during the current year. Return (F.) the number of all ranks who have entered the school during the present year, left it with or without certificates, and those who remain having been re-engaged left a further period of service and instruction, in consequence of ability and good character.

Since the issue of the liberal General Order (23rd May, 1873), which allows men to obtain their discharge on payment of the small sum of two dollars (\$2) per month of unexpired engagement, as a compensation to Government for the wear and tear of uniforms, &c., there is no excuse for the crime of desertion which is generally accompanied by the theft of uniforms and regimental necessaries. I would recommend a reward of ten dollars (\$10) to be paid for the apprehension of each deserter.

Since men have been apprehended by the Mounted Police, and tried by court martial, there has been no instance of desertion, but the long period that elapses before sanction for trial can be obtained, is productive of bad effects, and it is hard on men to be kept for months in confinement without trial.

Return (H) shows the several militia batteries to which the officers, non-commissioned officers and gunners of "B" Battery belong, or have been enrolled, but there is no adequate means of compelling men who leave the battery after a long course to turn out with the militia corps in which