

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF  
THE MILITIA FOR 1872.

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On the 24th June, the staff, composed as follows:

- Brigade Major, Major Crawford, 3rd Battalion.
- Supply Officer, Lieut. Colonel Dowker, M. G. A.
- Camp Quartermaster, Lieut. Seath, 6th Battalion
- Musketry Instructor, Lieut. Campbell, 3rd Battalion.
- Orderly Officer, Lieutenant Gordon, M. G. A.

proceeded to the ground, and the operation of laying out the camp commenced, and by the exertions of the Brigade Major, assisted by the Camp Quarter Master and Orderly Officer, was most accurately performed. A non commissioned officer and one man per company from the various corps arrived, and took over the camp equipment of their respective corps, commenced to pitch tents, dig latrines, &c. the whole remaining in camp during the night.

On the 25th the various corps commenced to arrive, and by nightfall with the exception of the Montreal Troop of Cavalry, which was marching from Montreal, all had arrived and were comfortably settled for the night; rations returns for the following day having been made out, guards mounted and sentries posted.

The Brigade was composed as follows:

- St. Andrew's and Montreal Troops of Cavalry.
- 1st Battalion "Prince of Wales Own Rifles"
- 3rd Battalion, "Victoria Volunteer Rifles."
- 6th Batt. "Hochelaga Light Infantry."
- 11th Bat. "Argenteuil Rangers."
- Wakelield Infantry Company.
- Erdley Infantry Company.
- Alywin Infantry Company.

The three last named companies were attached to the 16th Battalion.

On the 26th rations were first served out and regular drill commenced, which for the first five days was confined to squad, company, troop and battalion drill. The daily improvement was apparent, and especially with the Alywin Company which came into camp all recruits, and was soon able to take their place in battalion. On the 1st of July the first brigade parade was ordered, and a march past and a few simple brigade movements were gone through, but no blank ammunition was served out, as I did not consider the brigade had been long enough in training to make the expenditure profitable. From this time until the close of the camp, besides the morning drills, brigade parades daily (three days with 10 rounds of blank ammunition) and the improvement in brigade movements and light infantry was most creditable, and gave me very great satisfaction.

I gave the command of the brigade parade one day each to the following officers viz., Lt. Col. Bond, Lt. Colonel Bethune and Major Rogers, arranging with them beforehand what brigade movements were to be performed at the afternoon parades, and I have much satisfaction in reporting that they went through with their respective programmes in a very creditable manner.

The rifle ranges situated on a piece of ground kindly given for the purpose by Mr. Charles Albright, a farmer, were about a half mile from the camp; the butts, four in number, were carefully built under the supervision of the Musketry Instructor, and each range was available for 200, 400, and 600 yards. The target practice commenced on the 2nd July, and was conducted admirably and carried through successfully, and completed on the 6th without mishaps of any kind, thanks to the care taken by the Brigade Musketry Instructor, Lieut. Campbell. A list of best shots is herewith transmitted.

The whole of the buglers in camp were daily exercised under an efficient instructor and benefitted much by the arrangement.

The duties of guard mounting, posting sentries, &c. I found at first to be very unsatisfactorily performed, until I detailed an instructor to attend to this particular duty, and the benefit thereof was very soon apparent, by the manner in which the guards were relieved, and the greater alertness shown by sentries on their posts.

Regimental officers' messes were established and worked well; the Brigade Staff messed by themselves.

The brigade paraded for Divine Service each Sunday in camp; the Roman Catholics attending their church in St. Andrew's, and the Reverend Canon Lonsdale most kindly officiated in camp for the Protestants.

Under the supervision of the Camp Quartermaster, the camp was kept clean and healthy. The issue of all the camp equipment, as well as taking over again devolves on this officer, and he performed his duties sometimes arduous, very much to my satisfaction.

The duties of Supply Officer were most efficiently performed, and the Contractor's supplies were of excellent quality, there were consequently no complaints during the whole time of the training, either as to the quantity or quality of the rations, the additions made to which since the previous year were duly appreciated.

The Brigade Major was indefatigable, and my best thanks are due to him for the very satisfactory manner in which he carried out my orders in every respect; in fact, where all the Staff worked with a determination to make the camp a success, it is perhaps invidious on my part to individualize, as my thanks are due to the whole of my staff for the way in which they supported me throughout.

I forward herewith a sketch of the camp and a very little of its surroundings.

The Montreal Field Battery drilled for four days at Laprairie, and they have to complete their annual training during the winter.

The Montreal Garrison Artillery (6 Batteries) went into Barracks at Montreal, and there performed the annual sixteen days' drill.

The Montreal Engineers (2 Companies) encamped for sixteen days on St. Helen's Island. All these corps, as well as the Sheffield Field Battery and the St. John's Garrison Battery, I mustered for pay; but for efficiency in Artillery, Regimental Drill and Exercises I have to refer you to the report of the Inspector of Artillery, for the Province of Quebec.

During the year five troops of Cavalry have been raised and accepted in the District, and I have now two more offering their services.

Cavalry corps can be kept up in the rural

districts at the present rate of pay, but to keep up the infantry battalions, it appears to me, to become year by year more difficult.

Before closing this report, I beg to record my thanks to Mr. Emery Simpson, and Mr. Peter McMartin for their liberality in placing at my disposal a very large portion of their farms, for the purpose of the camp; and to the inhabitants of St. Andrew's for their most excellent supply of spring water.

To the Rev. Canon Lonsdale my thanks are also due, as, although much engaged, having three services to perform in his own Church in St. Andrew's, he each Sunday of flicted for us in camp.

I have the honor to be sir,

Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS BACON, Lt. Col.

A. D. A. G., Militia.

M. D. No. 5.

HEAD QUARTERS, 2nd Brigade Division.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 5.

St. John's, October 23, 1872.

Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that the total nominal strength of the force in the Division under my command, were the respective corps complete to their established strength as authorised, would be officers and men 2,611.

The total actual strength of the force, when mustered at the time of the annual drill for 1872 and 1873 was, officers and men 1,169. There are wanting to complete, officers and men, 1,442.

The annual drill was performed in accordance with General Orders of the 31st May, and in the following manner:

The three troops of Cavalry and six Battalions of infantry in camp at Laprairie, under my command, and the two batteries of Artillery at St. Helen's island under the supervision of Lieut. Col. Strange, and officers of "B" Battery.

The camp at Laprairie was formed on the 21st June. The infantry camp occupied the rising ground on the right of the barracks, and the cavalry were encamped between the barracks and the river, both camps were well laid out, and kept in excellent order. The plan of picketing the horses adopted by Lieut. Col. Lovelace, commanding the Cavalry, was very secure and serviceable; Enclosed is a sketch of the camp.

DRILL AND DUTIES.

The first six days in camp were taken up with squad, troop and company drill, and target practice, the remainder of the time with battalion, light infantry and brigade drill. The troops of cavalry were all new, having been formed in April last, had never been drilled until their arrival in camp, but under the efficient instruction of Lieut. Col. Lovelace, such progress was made, that at inspection they marched past at a walk and gallop in a very creditable manner.

In the infantry there were seven companies all formed within ten days of mustering for camp, viz.: one company 21st Battalion, one Company 52nd Battalion, and five in the 79th Battalion. None of them were armed, and one of them had not received clothing, but spare arms and clothing were furnished by the other companies to all who were in