

The British garrison of Quebec was now besieged and the whole French army employed themselves constructing batteries and entrenchments, suffering severely from the constant fire maintained from the town. The cavalry were employed in detachment work, all round the country, on both sides of the rivers St. Lawrence and St. Charles, to prevent any supplies or information reaching the garrison, and mounted scouts despatched to incredible distances down both the north and south shores to obtain, if possible, any news of the expected fleet and reinforcements which had sailed from France, and upon the arrival of which the fate of Canada depended.

Knox says:—"The 16th May a ranging officer and twelve men being advanced last night close by the River St. Charles, not far from the general hospital, surprised a courier, who swam that river with his horse and was returning with despatches for M. de Lévis from the lower country, where he was detached for intelligence; by him we learn that there are some straggling ships in the river, and that he saw the fleet enter the gulf, which we suppose to be Lord Colville's. The wind continues easterly."

In his final review of the winter campaign at Quebec, Knox gives the strength of the two armies as follows, page 328:—"Our victorious army, consisting of ten regiments, two companies of the Royal Artillery, and one company of New England Rangers, amounting to about seven thousand three hundred men, marched into Quebec under the command of Brigadier-General Murray as Governor, and Colonel Ralph Burton as Lieutenant-Governor." Speaking of the French he says:—"The enemy's army consisted of five battalions of veteran troops, thirty companies of marines, *troupes de colonie*, two troops of light cavalry, twelve hundred Acadians and savages, with about twelve thousand Canadians, amounting on the whole to near eighteen thousand men, all in good health, who had not undergone a tenth part of the fatigues our troops had been exposed to."

(To be continued.)

Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

MILITARY DECORATIONS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—The fact that it is the first time in the history of England's military expeditions and campaigns that none of the officers engaged have received any distinctive recognition from the crown certainly requires some explanation in Parliament, because I believe the fault lies entirely with the Ottawa authorities alone. In the first Red River expedition all commanding officers were decorated, so with the Australian contingent that went to Egypt—as well as our Canadian voyageurs—and in the New Zealand, Cape, Abyssinian and Ashantee affairs, a perfect deluge of decorations was given, and last and not least the battle of Ginnis; all commanding and such a host of other officers besides, having been similarly honored, I am induced to give the particulars of that insignificant affair.

BATTLE OF GINNIS.

Gen. Stephenson took the offensive and on the 30th December, 1885, attacked the enemy, and the following details of the encounter are given in his despatches.

The troops marched from camp near Koshch at 5 a.m., the 1st brigade led by Gen. Butler making a sweeping detour of three miles south eastward into the desert, while the cavalry and camel corps were on the left, and the 3rd brigade under Col. Huysche, was in echelon one mile from the Nile. Precisely at 6 a.m. the screw-guns opened fire and shelled Koshch, after which the Cameron highlanders and Egyptian battalion advanced along the river's edge and stormed the village at the point of the bayonet, but the enemy made a desperate resistance in their mud houses, clinging to them to the last. Col. Huysche's brigade now wheeled round to the right and joined the Camerons, after which both brigades rushed on to attack the chief village of Ginnis.

There the Arabs made an anticipatory attack upon the British, but were unable to withstand their steady and furious advance in line, with the fire of the screw-guns and camel battery falling among them. They bravely, however, charged the 1st brigade but were hurled back in disorder, and put to flight. Five of their Emirs were killed in the conflict, and the fact that fifty dead men were found in one house alone attests the valor with which the enemy fought.

Gen. Butler now pushed on to Atab, and the cavalry beyond Ammara, with Gen. Stevenson and Col. Huysche established themselves in Ginnis, and the *Lotus* steamed up the Nile to capture some nuggars at Ammara, eventually she captured nine laden with arms and ammunition; several banners and dervishes were taken. She was most useful during the attack, in which the Egyptians captured four pieces of cannon. Twenty banners were taken.

Our casualties were as follows: Lieut. J. F. Salteau, of the 1st Berkshire (formerly of the Devonshire militia) killed, with Lieut. Wigan of the same corps wounded, and twenty-three rank and file (generally), two mortally. Among the killed were Lieut. Mahommed Homdy and four Egyptians, and fourteen men of the camel corps wounded, including two officers. Our success at Ginnis had one good effect, it convinced the Arabs on the Nile between Koshch and Assouan that it was unsafe to reckon on the early coming of the followers of the new Mahdi, and the blow demonstrated to them that at any rate for the present, if not for the future, they will be unable to make common cause against us, while it gave complete safety to Gen. Stevenson's line of communication.

The total loss of the Arabs was never stated. Gen. Stevenson telegraphed to the Khedive congratulating him on the fine behaviour of the Egyptian troops, who for the first time proved themselves more than a match for the enemy in the open.

Ottawa, 22nd April, 1887.

VOYAGEUR.

CAMP COOKS AND COOKING.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

DEAR SIR,—Having kindly given me space for a former letter, I again venture to trouble you with a growl.

The practice of engaging cooks for camp appears to me to be bad and should be discontinued. Militiamen while in camp should be taught to cook their own food, there is nothing difficult in cooking a soldier's dinner, and to my way of thinking it is as necessary for a militiamen to know how to cook, as it is for him to know how to "shoulder arms."

In many instances the men so engaged are colored men; mind, sir, I do not object to a colored man because he is a colored man; but I do object to his name being placed on the muster roll, and to his receiving pay for duties he does not perform.

I do not think that the battalions ordered for service in the Northwest during the late rebellion engaged cooks, I know mine did not, yet we managed to survive.

Why cannot each company in camp detail a cook and assistant cook daily, and thus give as many as possible an idea of what cooking for a company is.

FUSILIER.

P.S.—Why not "regale" the boys on "hard tack" at least twice a week.

Queries and Replies.

Q.—1. Please describe in detail the latest Queen's Regulations for the uniform and arms of all staff-sergeants of rifle regiments.

2. In the Imperial service certain staff-sergeants are designated "warrant officers," so please state if this designation is to be found in the Canadian G. O's., and where? Also what sergeants are so designated, and describe in detail their uniform and arms.

3. What is the maximum number of long-service chevrons authorized by Canadian G. O's.?

A.—1. Any man propounding such a query as this to an unfortunate editor ought to be shot. I thought I knew all about it, but when it comes to quoting chapter and verse I can find nothing decisive after a hunt of two weeks, more or less. There is nothing on the point in the Queen's Regulations or in our own regulations, and the Imperial clothing warrant scarcely covers the case, as some who in Canada are n.c.o's. are in the Imperial service warrant officers. As nearly as I can ascertain the dress of staff-sergeants in the Imperial rifle corps is prescribed regimentally. In this country the same method seems to prevail, judging by the fearful and wonderful outfits occasionally encountered. If I can find anything decisive on this point it will be published later on. In the meantime, my unsuccessful search seems to indicate the desirability that something authoritative on the point should be promulgated by the militia department and be placed in a shape to be readily available.

2. There are no warrant officers in the Canadian militia; those so designated in the Imperial service are n.c.o's. Here our regimental sergeants-major and bandmasters would be warrant officers under Imperial regulations. This class was constituted under the Royal Warrant of 11th March, 1882.

3. Three, I should judge. Here is the regulation in full, published in G.O. of 6th February, 1885. "No 2. Good conduct and service badges. In order to provide a means of distinguishing those n.c.o's. and men whose conduct has been good and who have served continuously in their corps for three years, and have re-enlisted therein for a second period of three years of similar service, there will be issued to each a good conduct and service chevron of one bar to be worn when in uniform during the period of his re-enlistment, below the elbow on the left arm of his tunic, with the point upwards.

An additional chevron of one bar, making two bars in all, will be issued to be worn similarly by those who, having completed six years service, re-enlist in the same corps for a third period of three years.

An additional chevron of one bar, making three bars in all, will be issued to be worn similarly by those who having completed nine years service, re-enlist in the same corps for a fourth period of three years.

These chevrons will be of worsted braid, each bar to be of the same width and size as the bars of the chevrons issued to be worn on the right arm above the elbow by n.c. officers, to designate their rank.

Regimental Intelligence.

We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?

Toronto.—On the afternoon of Sunday the first, the Queen's Own had a church parade. Nearly 400 men were in the ranks under command of Lieut.-Col. Allan. They marched up Jarvis street to the Bloor street Methodist church, where Rev. Manley Benson preached a sermon full of warlike ideas and illustrations. The church was more than crowded. The return was made down Yonge and along King to the armory. The brass band of the regiment and the bugle band took turns in furnishing marching time. An immense crowd admired the regiment on Yonge street.

There was a fine parade of the Royal Grenadiers on Friday night under Major Dawson. About 350 men, all told, were in the ranks, and headed by the two bands they started out for a short tramp. It came on to rain when they were at York and Adelaide streets, and they were pretty well drenched before they arrived back at the armory. There was a very large muster of recruits. Before going out President Withrow and several directors of the Industrial exhibition association stepped to the front and presented the regiment with a handsome silver cup as a mark of appreciation of their services on citizens' day last year. It is a cup similar to that presented to the Q.O.R. Mr. Withrow, in the course of a neat speech, regretted the want of a suitable drill shed, and suggested that the regiment should invite the mayor and corporation down on the occasion of a full parade. This week was to be a busy one with the regiment. Tuesday is the volunteer monument concert night, at which officers and men are expected to appear in uniform. Thursday is the anniversary of Batoche, which the officers and sergeants will celebrate at their respective messes; the sergeants with a dinner at the Criterion. Owing to this the regiment will parade on Monday night instead of Thursday. Notwithstanding many invitations to go abroad, the Grenadiers will "troop the colors" on May 24th at home. The regiment will not go to Mount Pleasant cemetery until Sunday week, when the memorial to Privates Moor and Hughes will be unveiled.

Ottawa.—The members of the 43rd battalion are making great preparations for their trip to Arnprior on the 24th May. An extensive programme has been arranged, consisting of a review and sham fight, military sports, bayonet competition, football