

Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1874.

(Continued from Page 256.)  
APPENDIX NO. 2.

REPORT ON "A" BATTERY SCHOOL OF GUNNERY.

KINGSTON, ONTARIO,  
31st December, 1874.

During the year ending 31st December, 1874, five officers, 152 non commissioned officers and men joined this school. The numbers from each battery in the Province will be seen on reference to the subjoined list:—

BATTERIES.	Officers.	N.C. and Men	Total.
London Field Battery	12	12	24
Wellington do	13	13	26
Goderich Garrison Battery, Sarnia do	2	2	4
Hamilton Field Battery	2	2	4
Welland Canal do	9	9	18
Toronto do	21	21	42
St. Catharines Garrison Artillery	6	6	12
Toronto do	17	17	34
Collingwood do	1	1	2
Kingston Field Battery	50	50	100
Durham do	1	1	2
Cobourg Garrison Artillery	1	1	2
Port Hope do	3	3	6
Napanee do	1	1	2
Trenton do	1	1	2
Ottawa Field Artillery	3	3	6
Gananoque do	1	1	2
Ottawa Brigade of Garrison Artillery	0	0	0
New Brunswick do	1	1	2
Winnipeg Field Battery	1	1	2
Artillery on duty, Manitoba	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>153</b>

The following short course certificates have been received during the past year:

	1st class.	2nd class.
Officers	6	0
Non com. Officers and Men	16	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>

Shewing an increase on last year of 7 14

Fifteen non-commissioned officers and men received their discharge from the school for the purpose of engaging in the North West Mounted Police Force. During the past year four officers, fifty nine non-commissioned officers and men joined the school for a short course of instruction.

1. The results of this, the third year of the existence of this school, have as regards the attendance and instruction of non-commissioned officers and men been very satisfactory, and I have uniformly found, during my inspection of the greater portion of the artillery of this Province, the good results attending the intermixture, in the ranks of the volunteers of non-commissioned officers and men who have received such instruction and experience in their duties and discipline. The non-attendance of officers in greater numbers for a short course of instruction is much to be deprecated, I attribute their reluctance in coming forward principally to the two following reasons, viz: 1st. The necessary expense attendant on the purchase of a varied and costly uniform, and the necessity of providing sufficient barrack furniture to supplement the regulation table and chairs, it being borne in mind that for officers attending a course of instruction the pay is only \$1 per diem and rations; and 2ndly—the difficulty, and in some cases, the impossibility of officers and men, who may be engaged in professional or commercial pursuits, absenting themselves from their duties for so long a period as two or three months.

To obviate the above I would suggest as a remedy with regard to the former, that a serge jacket with appropriate facings, to cost about \$7 be substituted for the present expensive patrol jacket, and the use of the ordinary tunic at mess, instead of the shell jacket, left optional. That a few necessary articles of furniture be supplied to quarters for "Short Course" officers, that the pay of such officers and non-commissioned officers, while at the school, be according to rank.

With regard to the latter I would recommend that, during the summer months, classes of instruction under the superintendance of a properly qualified officer from the School of Gunnery assisted by one or more sergeant instructors, be formed at Ottawa and Toronto, or elsewhere if required, and under rules to be hereafter laid down, at the close of any a two months course of three hours per diem, an examination practical and theoretical could be held by the Commandant School of Gunnery, and 2nd or 3rd class certificates awarded. The holders of these might afterwards qualify for a higher grade by attending one month's course at the school, for additional instruction in interior economy, discipline and riding, &c.

2. I would recommend the adoption of a 3rd class certificate, to meet the case of certain non-commissioned officers and men, who though capable to instruct in drills &c., are of inferior education, such certificates not to qualify the holder as fit for a commission.

3. An increase in the present Field Battery establishment of the Schools of Gunnery, has been previously recommended by the Inspector of Artillery in Quebec and Ontario. As in "A" Battery there are at present 71 men belonging to different field batteries in the Province, the importance of providing adequate means for their instruction will be at once apparent.

4. I would recommend the enrolment of certain non-commissioned officers and men for three years' service in "A" Battery. The former would consist of sergeant major, quarter master sergeant, sergeant instructors, battery artificers, musicians, caretakers for forts canteen steward, hospital sergeant, &c., &c. From the nature of their employments, these men are unable to join their own batteries for annual drill, &c., should not therefore be borne upon their strength, whilst the due performance of their duties demands a lengthened experience.

5. It being found that greater numbers of non-commissioned officers and men present themselves for admission for short courses of instruction during the winter, than during the summer months. I would recommend that at such periods the establishment of "A" Battery be increased, to be compensated for by a corresponding decrease during summer.

6. A rifle association has been kept up in the School of Gunnery during the past two years, an annual match being fired in the month of June, and aggregate prizes subscribed for the best scores made on a certain number of Saturday afternoons. Last year the association numbered 77 members.

7. A summer camp for a week in August was formed on the lake shore, about five miles from town, during which the battery was instructed in camp duties, ordinary drills and field gun practices. The officers performed a survey and a road sketch, opportunity was afforded for athletic sports, swimming, &c. The rations were brought out by the battery horses, &c. The conduct of the men was excellent.

7. During the past year all the officers

and one non-commissioned officer have been instructed in surveying, road sketching, reconnaissance and defence of buildings. Considerable progress has been made in the above studies.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
D. T. IRWIN, Major,  
Commandant School of Gunnery.  
The Deputy Adjutant General,  
Headquarters, Ottawa.

REPORT ON "B" BATTERY SCHOOL OF GUNNERY.

CITADEL, QUEBEC,  
31st December, 1874.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward a synopsis of the instruction carried out for the last three years in "B" Battery Gunnery School, and beg to state that not having a sufficient staff of assistants, I desire, with your permission to lower the standard of instruction by omitting from the "Long Course," mathematics as applied to the higher gunnery problems, military history and the construction of siege batteries, rafts and bridges, for which there is a difficulty in obtaining the necessary material, as well as working parties from the multiplicity of duties devolving on the small force under my command.

I need not in this report, I presume, refer in detail to the recommendations previously submitted with reference to the subdivision of the 174 of all ranks of "B" Battery into a brigade of 3 batteries of 80 each, one serving as a branch School of Gunnery at Montreal, which has already been at work for two years without any expense, as yet, to the Government beyond the pay of the officer and non-commissioned officer and 20 men of the St. Helen's Island detachment "B" Battery. It is scarcely necessary to refer to the facility with which cavalry and infantry drills could also be taught by such an establishment as proposed.

T. B. STRANGE, Lieut. Col.  
Inspector of Artillery, and  
Com. Gunnery School, Quebec.  
Deputy Adjutant General  
of Militia, Ottawa.

SHORT COURSE.  
GUNNERY SCHOOL, QUEBEC,  
April, 1874.

Field Gunnery.

1. Define the following terms:—Trajectory, line of sight, line of fire, point blank range, deflexion, derivation?
  2. What is meant by curved fire?
  3. What projectiles and fuses would you use respectively against troops in the open troops behind a stockade, troops sheltered behind rising ground or in woods; and how would you act against artillery whose limbers and horses were sheltered?
  4. Give the rough rule for calculating length of fuse for common and Sharpe's shell, (rifle guns,) take sharpshooter at 1,500 yards as an example?
  5. State the rules for calculating deflexion for the wind cross range, and for one wheel being on higher ground than the other?
  6. On the first coming into action how would you regulate and correct the fire of your guns?
  7. State in detail the positions and duties of the members in action with 9 Pr. M. L. & field guns, and the duties in case the gun detachment were reduced to five and six men by casualties?
- T. B. STRANGE, Lieut. Colonel,  
Insp. of Artillery, and Com. S. G.
- 8th. What orders would you give to the officer in charge of your waggons?