

The annual drill was performed in accordance with General Orders of 31st May 1872, and in the following manner:

The force detailed for a divisional camp at Levis, assembled there on the evening of the 25th June, and were encamped in two brigades under the command, respectively, of Lieutenant Colonels Blanchet, of the 17th, and Panet of the 9th Battalions. The Beauce and Quebec Field Batteries, and detachment of "B" Battery, were quartered at the Royal Engineer Park, under the senior officer of that arm. As the troops of this District, from want of targets, and others circumstances, had not heretofore being in a position to practice rifle shooting as much as could be desired, it was thought advisable to give special attention to this part of the soldier's training this year, and measures were taken to give precedence, to the rifle shooting. I am happy to say that, during this year's training, (for the first time I believe, since the District was established) the whole of the men assembled at camp, were enabled to fire the number of rounds directed by paragraph 147 of the regulations for the annual drill of 1872 and 1873.

I am sorry to say that the want of practice in this branch of training, from want of targets, during the first three years of the present Militia establishment is severely felt in this District, the average number of points rather low in most corps.

This being the first year of the second term of service under the new law, the force in camp was largely composed of recruits, and necessitated more time and attention being given to squad and company drill, and manual exercise, than under other circumstances might have been deemed necessary. The force paraded three times a day, at early morning, ten o'clock a.m., and three o'clock p.m. The first few days were therefore almost exclusively devoted to rifle shooting, manual exercise, position drill and squad and company drill, and manual exercise were limited to morning drills, the rest of the time being devoted to battalion, brigade or division manoeuvres and skinning. Under these circumstances, I am sorry to say, I found it inadvisable for obvious reasons, to have more than the following division parades, viz:--

On the 26th June, 1st July, (Dominion day), 5th July, inspection by the Adjutant General, and practice of a sham fight marching past; 8th July, presentation of prizes, and badges for good shooting.

I am sorry to say that the want of experience and practical knowledge of the use of troops in the field on the part of this officers, was severely felt.

The force was mustered under the personal supervision of the officers commanding the camps, and the District Paymaster on the following days--

Artillery, 29th June; No 2 Brigade, 29th June; No. 1 Brigade, 1st July.

I have the honor to forward herewith, the annual Tabular Inspection Returns of all corps, as well as the District target practice returns, and the names of the best shots in every company, corps, and battalion and the name of the best shot in the district.

The best shot in the district, from the corps who have competed, in Sergeant Major Lemonde, of the Charlevoix Provisional Battalion, whose score is: 57, divided as follows:

At 200 yards.....	20	} 57.
400 ".....	19	
600 ".....	18	

The Charlevoix Provisional Battalion, Gaspé and Fox River Companies, and Grosse Isle detachment of Artillery, have been authorized to undergo their annual drill at their Head Quarters. The three first named corps have proved satisfactory. As to the Grosse Isle Detachment, the Inspector of Artillery will report.

SCHOOL OF MILITARY INSTRUCTION.

At the departure of the regulars, the School of Military Instruction at this station was placed in the hands of the Militia Staff. The attendance, as by General Orders, been limited to a given number of cadets, and to certain months of the year, I consider that the Government bounty for certificates, could be applied in a manner more beneficial to the country, and advantageous to the cadets themselves, by having the cadets more on the system of the military colleges at home. The cadets could be put in barracks, under proper officers, and be, for the time of that training, under the articles of war and usual military administration, as if they were regularly enrolled soldiers. This would give them a sound practical knowledge of inferior economy, and military rule and administration, and inure to the system of life, accounts, regulations and military duty they are expected to teach others, and of which, under the present system, they can acquire but a very limited and merely theoretical knowledge. This place offers peculiar facilities from the considerable amount of ordnance buildings and properties at present vacant, and which it would be for the interest of the Department to have occupied at least during the winter months. This plan could be carried out for little, if anything, over the amount given for certificates. The cadets could also, in my opinion, be obliged to enrol in the volunteer corps of the localities to which they belong, for a period of three years, so that Government, beside their actual service while attending the Military School, would have the benefit of the service of trained cadets in the military force instead of, as at present, seeing most of the cadets retiring to civil life immediately after they get their certificates and bounty.

I would consider it greatly to the public advantages that Government should give the use of some military buildings, and a certain pecuniary encouragement to further the establishment of a military library, to be mainly supported by subscriptions from the officers of the force, it being one of the first desiderata that officers should have facilities of learning their profession, which they have at present no facilities of doing, beyond the mere elementary knowledge to be derived from attendance at Military School.

With regard to the strength of the different corps as mustered at the last annual drill, I have the honor to report that it seems to me very difficult to maintain the corps at their full strength by volunteer enrolment alone, in this part of the country. There seems to be a feeling with the men that, when they have done one term of service, others should take their place. Several commanding officers have represented to me that it would be advisable to have the assistance of the ballot to fill up their quota and if brought on gradually and with some discretion, as opportunity occurs, I do not believe it would be distasteful to the country.

The clothing, with the exception of a few corps, being new, of this year's issue, was of course in a first rate condition. The equipment and arms were in fair order, with the exception of the Eboulements Company.

I have the honor to forward herewith, a tabular statement of the quantity and last issue of clothing, and equipment of the different corps in the District.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
L. A. CASUALT, Lieut.Col.,
D.A.G., Commanding.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 6.

The Adjutant General of Militia,
Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT, No. 8

The militia in this District are under the command of Lieut. Colonel George Maunsell Deputy Adjutant General, who reports for my information as follows, upon the state of his command:--

HEAD QUARTERS,
FREDERICTON, N. B.,

14th November, 1872.

Sir,-- I have the honor to inform you that the quota of Active Militia required to be furnished from the Military District under my command is 3, 24, of all ranks.

The total nominal strength of the force in the District, were the respective corps complete to their established strength as authorized, would be 3,275.

The total actual strength of the force, when mustered at the time of the annual drill for 1872-73, was 2,189. There are 1,095 officers and men wanting to complete.

The annual drill was performed in accordance with the General Orders of 31st May, 1872, in the following manner; and in order to give a full detailed account here, I propose adverting to the force of each Brigade Division, instead of by seniority of corps in the District.

In considering the fact that many corps in this District have performed the annual drill below the established strength, it should be borne in mind that the term of engagement of the majority of the men composing the force had expired about the time selected for assembling in camp, and recruitment had not then been completed.

However, since that time the enrolment has proceeded so rapidly and satisfactorily that I hope to be in a position at an early date to report the quota for this District completed, and that, too, on members of the force obtaining their discharge, by recruiting from a class of men who would be a credit to any army.

The intention, therefore, of assembling a brigade at Shediac this year was abandoned, such corps as would have joined that camp being allowed, at the request of their Lieut. Colonels, to perform their annual drill in battalion camps, and there was but one brigade camp of exercise, viz., Woodstock, in the 1st brigade Division, of which Lieut. Colonel Inches was Brigade Major, composed as follows:

Brigade Staff.--Brigadier Lieut. Colonel Maunsell; Lieut. Colonel Inches; Brigade Major Captain T. McKenzie, Supply Officers; Captain Vince, 67th Battalion, Musketry Instructor; Quartermaster T. Hegg, 71st Battalion, Camp Quartermaster; Major McAdam, Orderly Officer,

(To be Continued)