

Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1875.

(Continued from page 147.)

APPENDIX No. I.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 2.

Old Fort, Toronto,
16th December, 1875.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward, for submission to the Major General Commanding, the enclosed Inspection Report of corps of the Active Militia, which have performed the annual drill for the year 1875 '76 in Militia District No. 2, in accordance with General Orders, dated Ottawa, 23rd April, 1875.

In submitting this report, I beg leave to lay before the Major General Commanding, the following memoranda in relation to the strength, and the manner in which the annual drill of the force, under my command was performed.

The authorized establishment of the Active Militia, in the District, consists of:—

Cavalry.

Governor General's Body Guard and 2nd Regiment—(7 Troops) 32 officers, 440 non-commissioned officers and men, horses 472.

Artillery.

3 Field Batteries, 18 officers, 225 non-commissioned officers and men, horses 195, guns 12. 3 Garrison Batteries, 9 officers, 165 non-commissioned officers.

Infantry.

15 Battalions; 1 Rifle Company at Sault Ste. Marie (the Rifle Company at the Saulte is in possession of two Mountain Rifled Guns) 461 officers, 6,380 non-commissioned officers and men, 68 horses, guns 2. Total officers 520, non-commissioned officers 7,210, horses 735, guns 14.

The force authorized to drill by General Order, 23rd April, 1875, is as follows:—

Cavalry.

Governor General's Body Guard and 2nd Regiment—(7 Troops) 24 officers, 336 non-commissioned officers and men, horses 360

Artillery.

3 Field Batteries, 18 officers, 225 non-commissioned officers and men, horses 183. 3 Garrison Batteries, 6 officers, 126 non-commissioned officers and men.

Infantry.

15 Battalions 1 Rifle Company, 348 officers, 4,914 non-commissioned officers and men, 68 horses. Total, officers 396, non-commissioned officers and men 5,601, horses 611.

The force which performed the annual drill for the year, is as undermentioned:—

Cavalry.

Governor General's Body Guard and 2nd Regiment—(7 Troops) 22 officers, 325 non-commissioned officers and men, 347 horses.

Artillery.

3 Field Batteries, 11 officers, 225 non-commissioned officers and men, 110 officers. 3 Garrison Batteries, 6 officers, 118 non-commissioned officers and men.

Infantry.

15 Battalions 293 officers, 4,617 non-commissioned officers and men, 68 horses.

Regimental Officers and N.-C. O. employed on the Brigade Staff, 9 officers, 8 non-commissioned officers, 7 horses. Total, 341 officers, 5,293 non-commissioned officers and men, 598 horses.

Recapitulation.

Establishment, 520 officers, 7,210 non-commissioned officers and men, 735 horses, 14 guns.

The force ordered to drill, 396 officers, 5,601 non-commissioned officers and men, 611 horses.

The force which performed annual drill, 341 officers, 5,293 non-commissioned officers and men, 598 horses.

There were three companies of infantry, two of which were not required to drill by an after General Order. Rating them at the authorized strength, they would show six officers and 118 non-commissioned officers and men in favour of the drilled force, thus approximating the latter force to within 49 officers and 196 non-commissioned officers and men, to that ordered to perform its annual drill.

The three Garrison Batteries—Toronto, Collingwood and St. Catharines—were assembled, by order, at the New Fort Barracks, Toronto, in order to perform their annual drill, and brigaded there.

These corps were assisted in the performance of their drill and duties by Lieut. Wilson, "A" Battery, who acted as Fort Adjutant; Sergts. Bramah and Baldoek, "A" Battery, as Instructors.

They rationed themselves in a satisfactory manner, receiving the allowance of 25 cents per man.

Before the termination of their drill, they were inspected by Lieut. Col. Irwin, Assistant Inspector of Artillery, accompanied by Lieut. Col. Denison, Brigade Major, who made a very favourable report of the efficiency of these corps.

It appears to me to be the most satisfactory manner in which these corps can perform their annual drill, deriving all the benefit of being placed in barracks, as well as the practical instruction of heavy gun drill—shot and shell practice.

The 10th Royals performed its annual drill at Toronto. This corps is much improved, both in *physique* and general appearance, when inspected by me. They mustered nearly in full strength, both officers and men. Although it is not a satisfactory manner to perform its drill at home, the general appearance of this corps was very creditable.

With the exception of this corps and the three corps previously mentioned, the remainder of the force performed the annual drill in two Brigade Camps of Instruction, formed at Niagara on the 1st, and at Holland Landing on the 22nd June last, respectively. Both camps were under my personal command.

CAMP NIAGARA.

Brigade Staff.

Superintendent of Drill, Lieut. Col. Denison, Brigade Major, Brigade Major, Lieut. Col. Vickers, Brigade Major, Camp Quarter-master, Major Moore, 13th Battalion, Supply Officer, Capt. Mason, 13th Battalion, Musketry Instructor, Capt. Johnston, Orderly Officer, Lieut. Jones, No. 5 Troop 2nd Regiment Cavalry; Officer in charge of Camp Police, Ensign Kerr, 13th Battalion.

The camp was composed of the following corps:—

2nd Regiment of Cavalry (5 Troops) 16 officers, 199 non-commissioned officers and men, 215 horses.

Hamilton Field Battery, 3 officers, 75 non-commissioned officers and men, 57 horses.

Welland Field Battery, 3 officers, 75 non-2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles 24 officers, 420 non-commissioned officers and men, 4 horses.

13th Battalion, 16 officers, 245 non-commissioned officers and men, 5 horses.

19th Battalion, 17 officers, 253 non-commissioned officers and men, 4 horses.

20th Battalion, 20 officers, 287 non-commissioned officers and men, 4 horses.

37th Battalion, 20 officers, 234 non-commissioned officers and men, 5 horses.

38th Battalion, 13 officers, 199 non-commissioned officers and men, 4 horses.

39th Battalion, 24 officers, 336 non-commissioned officers and men, 5 horses.

44th Battalion, 16 officers, 257 non-commissioned officers and men, 4 horses.

77th Battalion, 16 officers, 240 non-commissioned officers and men, 4 horses.

Brigade Staff, 8 officers, 5 non-commissioned officers, 3 horses. Total 196 officers, 2,876 non-commissioned officers and men, 374 horses.

The above force moved into camp and went under canvas, without any difficulty, for twelve days' drill, on Tuesday, 1st June. The issue of rations on the following morning took place without any delay whatever. The machinery of the whole camp worked uncommonly well.

The drill of the few days of the first week, was confined exclusively by the three arms of the force (with the exception of the force daily detailed for the target practices at the rifle ranges) to that appertaining to each.

Carrying out the General Orders.

The officers commanding corps availed themselves of the facilities for drill on the fine open common, where there is plenty of room for each corps.

The camp was visited and inspected on the Monday following, the 7th inst., by the Hon. W. B. Vail, the Minister of Militia and Defence, accompanied by Lieut. Col. MacPherson, Accountant at Head Quarters, on which day the first brigade parade was formed, in honor of that Minister, who evidently showed and took the greatest interest in the force, as well as the working of the camp in all its details.

The Minister was good enough to express himself on parade as much pleased with the general appearance of the force, and the manner in which they moved on parade.

On Wednesday, the 9th June, Major General Selby Smyth, commanding the Militia, with his A. D. C., Captain the Hon. Miles Stapleton, visited and inspected the camp, with a brigade parade in the afternoon. On the following day, Thursday, the whole force was inspected by the Major General, when a brigade field day took place under the supervision of that officer. The Major General was good enough to state on parade his satisfaction with the force in camp, their movements in the field, as well as their appearance.

The muster of the force was very good, in fact every corps responding well to the General Order. The 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles, over its required quota; the 39th Battalion, every officer and man present.

The supply of rations was very good, and was well carried out by the respective contractors. There were no complaints. The cost of rations per man was 21 cents; the cost of forage per ration was 31½ cents. The general conduct and health of the men in camp were good.

The camp broke up on Saturday, the 12th, and the officers and men were duly mustered.