

The 40th battalion was in full strength, the 45th nearly so, and the 46th was about forty men short, owing, I believe, to the small district they had to recruit from. Several officers of this last battalion were absent; consequently the remaining officers had to perform double duty.

The following were the hours for parade: 5.30 a.m., *réveille* and gun fire; 6.30 to 8 morning parade; 9.30 guard mounting; 10 to 12 drill; 2 to 4 p.m., battalion drill, 7.30 retreat; 9.30 first post and gun fire; 10 last post; 10.15 lights out.

I found it a very good plan to detail seven men instead of six for the regimental guard, and to excuse the cleanest man from parade for that day. It was wonderful how that new ordeal proved effectuous; several times two men had to draw lots, as it was impossible to find a single flaw in their dress or equipment, even to the buttons.

The first few days were devoted to squad and company drill, with, of course, the usual ludicrous mistakes and awkward movements; helmets cocked on the side of the head with plates to the rear; forage caps stuck firmly on the top of the head; bayonets hanging on the wrong side, etc. But when you come to consider that a great number of these men never carried a rifle before, the mistakes are accounted for.

Thursday morning, on the 23rd, the first detachment went to the rifle range; twenty rounds of ball cartridge were issued to each man. Taken altogether, the scoring was very fair; several companies averaging 30 out of a possible 80, some of the men, though, succeeded in scoring 60 points.

On Saturday afternoon there was a brigade parade, ending up by a march through the city, the boys returning from their dusty tramp about 6 o'clock, feeling thirsty and hungry and glad to be *at home* again.

On Sunday morning at 10 o'clock the men—of all denominations—paraded for Divine service. Three hundred Episcopalians under command of Col. Boulton were marched to St. George cathedral, headed by the band of the 45th, the Cadets of the Military College also joined this parade. Two hundred and fifty Presbyterians and three hundred Methodists with different bands were marched to their respective churches, the Roman Catholics, numbering twenty-five, were marched to their own church with the artillery band.

On Monday afternoon we paraded at 2.30 in review order for inspection by the major-general, who arrived sharp on time and made a minute inspection of the ranks. We then marched past in column and quarter-column, and for men—as far as I could see—who had but a few days at instruction, their marching and wheeling were very good.

Then the troops were formed into a square, the 40th in the centre. This movement was made to do honor to the latter regiment which was presented with new colors by Mrs. Oliver, wife of the commandant of the Royal Military College, on behalf of the ladies of Bowmanville, the battalion's headquarters. This military ceremony was a pretty sight indeed and very impressive. A pretty and very appropriate speech was delivered to us by Rev. Mr. Carey, and the different bands completed the touching and imposing ceremony with the National Anthem. Immediately afterwards, the General presented a number of clasps to some officers and men of the late Midland battalion, for the campaign of the Northwest in 1885.

The following days were devoted to ordinary camp routine until the 30th of June, when we had a grand Jubilee march to the city, in which joined behind a numerous crowd until our procession reached the Park, where we were drawn up in quarter-column facing north, and while the men stood easy and refreshed themselves a splendid oration was delivered by Mr. John McIntyre, Q.C., and a chorus composed of about four hundred school children sang beautifully.

On Dominion Day, at 10 a.m., we were to have a review, for which we were delayed somewhat by the 14th, which joined us about 11 and formed up on the extreme left of the infantry brigade. We were then supposed to fire a *feu de joie*, but failed beautifully; however, the last round was not so bad. After having given three cheers, we marched past in column and quarter-column, the 46th excelling, if I can judge by the great cheering its appearance called forth from the spectators. The commanding officers were then called out by the commandant of the camp, who complimented them in a neat little speech, on their own efficiency and good work and that of their men. We could see that the commandant, by the way he spoke, and by the look of contentment which was playing on his martial face, was really pleased with us, and that his compliments were sincere and prompted by conviction. We were then dismissed, thus ending the annual drill of 1887.

That same afternoon, at 6 o'clock, the tents were struck, baggage neatly piled and the grounds cleared, soon losing their military appearance. The men then indulged in games and sports of all kinds until 9.45, when we marched out to the train in which we embarked *en route* for our respective homes.

Two of our officers had this year their jubilee, Cols. Boulton and Cubitt, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of their military life. They

were entertained and feasted by the officers of the different corps in camp.

On the 29th, we had the pleasure to witness at the Military College the closing exercises of the cadets and the distribution of prizes. The cadets, on that occasion, did things exceedingly well, and the commandant did us the honor of the hospitality of the college in a princely way.

Before ending, I would like to suggest that the hours for the afternoon parade, namely, from 2 to 4, be changed and fixed at 4 to 6 on account of men often falling out owing to the extreme heat during that part of the day.

Some other time, with your permission, Mr. Editor, I may venture to make some other practical suggestions, but, not wishing to abuse the hospitality of your valuable paper, I will now close here.

E. W. HUBBELL.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS.

The following interesting account of the presentation of colors to the 40th Batt., as mentioned in the above letter, is extracted from the *Kingston Whig*:

"After the march past the cadets walked off the field, and the remainder of the troops formed a hollow square on three sides. The cavalry was formed up on the right and left. The infantry was ranged in quarter-column, with the 40th Batt. in the centre. When the troops had been got into their proper position a very interesting ceremony took place, the presentation of colors to the 40th Batt. by Mrs. Oliver, wife of Colonel Oliver, R.A., commandant of the Royal Military College. The spectators eagerly sought prominent positions, and surrounded the commanding officers. The staffs bearing the colors, two flags—one the regimental colors and the other the Queen's colors—were crossed over a pyramid of drums opposite the 40th Batt. The staff officers of the corps stood in front of the lines. Silence prevailed for a moment, and Rev. Mr. Carey, wearing a white surplice, dark cape, and mortar board, swept through the spectators in the company of Rev. Mr. Cooke, of St. George's cathedral, and took up a position in front of the colors. Rev. Mr. Carey consecrated them. He did not recite the usual service, but one specially prepared.

After the service Mrs. Oliver said, in clear and distinct tones, 'Lt.-Col. Rogers and officers and men of the 40th Batt., this is one of the happiest moments of my life, to have the opportunity of presenting these colors to your regiment on behalf of the ladies of the County of Northumberland. I feel confident that if the colors are ever carried into action the members of the regiment will do honor to them and themselves.'

Senior Major Gravely handed the colors, a Union Jack, to Mrs. Oliver, and Major Bonnycastle gave her the regimental colors, a very pretty flag, made of blue silk, fringed with gold, and having in the centre a handsomely worked badge, bearing the words '40th Battalion, Excelsior, XL.' Mrs. Oliver then presented Lieut. Wilson, No. 7 Co., with the regimental colors, and to Lieut. Given, No. 3 Co., the Queen's colors.

On behalf of the regiment, Lt.-Col. Rogers replied: 'To receive these colors is one of the pleasantest events that it has been my pleasure to experience during my past 21 years' service in the 40th Batt., and in doing so I truly express the profound gratitude and satisfaction that all members of the regiment feel in receiving this token of esteem and confidence from the ladies of the county. We are particularly pleased to receive the handsome Queen's colors in this jubilee year of the 50th anniversary of Her Majesty's coronation, and we feel a just pride in being entrusted with this national banner thus properly consecrated to her service. I tender the loyal devotion of the regiment to maintain its integrity and honor. We are pleased to see, beautifully represented in the other flag, the crest and motto of our regiment, and the sight of this handsome regimental color, with the motto 'Excelsior,' will ever be an incentive to us to strive unceasingly to excel in everything pertaining to our discipline and efficiency. Our best thanks are due to you, Mrs. Oliver, for kindly undertaking to represent the donors on this occasion, and we will bear a kindly remembrance of the gracfulness and courtesy shown by you in the presentation.'

The regiment then presented arms, and three cheers were given for the Queen."

During the rebellion T. Buchanan Read, the poet, was sitting in Col. Forney's room when the editor began to dictate a vigorous editorial in which the word "war" was used. Read sprang up at the sound and exclaimed, "War! war! Oh, that some beautiful bird from the South would make its nest in the cannon's mouth and stop this awful carnage!"—*Baltimore American*. A robin has built a nest in the mouth of one of the Parrott guns that ornament the burial plot of the Maquoketa (Iowa) Grand Army post—a picture of peace which it would be difficult to improve upon. *Omaha Bee*.