

Militia General Orders (No. 20) of 25th November, 1887.

No. 1.—MILITARY ARTICLES FREE OF CUSTOMS.

The following extract from an Order in Council dated 8th November, 1887, is published for the information and guidance of all concerned:—

“On the recommendation of the Minister of Customs, and under the authority of section 78 of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act (Chapter 39, Revised Statutes of Canada),—His Excellency by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, has been pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that there may be remitted and refunded by the Minister of Customs to military tailors and others importing military clothing or materials therefor, arms or accoutrements, for the use of the militia of Canada, or of officers thereof, the customs duty actually paid thereon, on production of satisfactory evidence of the importation thereof subsequent to the 13th May, 1887, and of the exact amount of duty paid thereon, including a certificate from the Honourable the Minister of Militia and Defence, to the effect that such articles, or articles manufactured therefrom, have been sold and furnished by such importer direct to the said department, or to a militia officer for the exclusive use of the Canadian militia or of such officer thereof, and that such articles as so sold and furnished are not of such a character as to be fit for any other use.

“That an officer of militia importing for his own use or for the use of the corps under his command, articles above specified may be allowed to make free entry thereof, provided the Honourable the Minister of Militia and Defence, or the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence, certifies that such articles are imported exclusively for the use of such officer as such, or for such corps, and that they are not of such a character as to be fit for any other use.

“That an officer of the militia importing for the use of the corps under his command musical instruments for bands may be allowed to make free entry thereof, provided the Honourable the Minister of Militia and Defence, or the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence, certifies that such instruments are the property of such corps and not of individual members thereof.”

Officers or others interested in obtaining remission of customs duty on military articles are required to endorse on the invoice or other document a certificate in accordance with the Order in Council above mentioned, so that the Minister of Militia and Defence or the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence may be enabled to take the required action.

The application is to be forwarded to headquarters through the regular military channel of communication.

No. 2.—ARTILLERY ANNUAL STORE RETURNS.

Officers commanding brigades and batteries of field and garrison artillery are reminded that the annual store returns of the corps under their command, should be forwarded to the district staff not later than the 31st December.

Requisitions for the supply of articles of equipment, &c., required to replace deficiencies or unserviceable articles, should be forwarded *in duplicate* at the same time.

The necessary forms for above can be obtained on application to the brigade office.

No. 3.—ACTIVE MILITIA.

Regt. Canadian Artillery.—To be Surgeon, from 9th November, 1887, John A. Duncan, M.D.

Surgeon Duncan is detailed for duty with “C” Battery.

1st Brig. Field Art.—To be Adjutant, Capt. John Davidson, G.S., from No. 2 Battery, *vice* Capt. Walter Clarke who retires retaining his rank of Captain.

7th Batt.—No. 1 Co.—2nd Lieut. Geo. Chapman resigns.

27th Batt.—No. 6 Co.—To be Captain, Lieut. Calvin John Dolbear, S.I., *vice* Robert Carroll who retires retaining rank.

To be Lieut., 2nd Lieut. V. W. Shirley, S.I., (1st B.), *vice* Dolbear, promoted.

56th Batt.—No. 6 Co.—To be lieut., prov., Sergt.-Major Robert Tripp, (S.I., 2nd B) *vice* Drummond, promoted.

96th Batt.—No. 2 Co.—To be 2nd Lieut., prov., Sergt. James McLaren, *vice* Charles James McLennan, left limits.

11th Batt.—No. 2 Co.—To be Lieut., prov., Sergt. Samuel Edmund Smith, *vice* Good, promoted.

2nd Lieut. Wm. Morrison resigns.

No. 4 Co.—To be 2nd lieut. prov., Sergt. Donald McPhail, *vice* Walker, promoted.

No. 8 Co.—To be Captain, from 1st June, 1887, Lieut. John Sittlington, S. I., *vice* Martin, appointed Adjutant.

To be Lieut. 2nd Lieut. Wm. Williamson, S.I., (1st B.), *vice* Sittlington, promoted.

To be Adjutant, Capt. Geo. Brooke Martin, S.I., *vice* Macdonald.

1st Brig. Gar. Art.—To be 2nd Lieutenants, prov., Wm. James Stewart, *vice* W. E. M. Romans;

Henry Flowers, Junior, *vice* P. J. A. Lear, left limits.

78th Batt.—No. 1 Co.—Adverting to No. 4 of General Orders (22) 2nd October, 1885, read “To be Lieutenant: Sergt. John Suckling, M.S., *instead of* “To be Lieutenant, prov., Sergt. John Suckling.”

No. 4.—RESERVE MILITIA—PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Regimental Division of Cardwell.

To be Lieut.-Col., Major William Hannah, *vice* Geo. McManus, deceased.

Regimental Division of East Middlesex.

No. 1 Co. Division.—The limits of this Company Division will in future comprise only “The Village of London West and those portions of the First, Second and Third Concessions of the Township of London lying west of the Proof Line Gravel Road.”

No. 7 Co. Division.—The formation of a new Company Division is authorized, to be known as “No. 7 Company Division.” Limits: “Those portions of the Fourth to Sixteenth Concessions, inclusive, of the Township of London, lying west of the Proof Line Gravel Road,” formerly comprised in No. 1 Company Division.

Regimental Division of the City of Ottawa.

No. 11 Co. Division.—The formation of a new Company Division is authorized, to be known as “No. 11 Company Division.” Limits: The “New Edinburgh Ward,” formerly comprised in No. 4 Company Division of the Regimental Division of Russell.

HONOURED IN THE BREACH.

How some of the “Regulations” are not observed—A School of Civil Gallantry—Unauthorized wearing of foreign medals—Allowances to the Militia.

(Continued from page 167.)

IN paragraph 282 we find the regulations governing the wearing of medals and decorations, and are told that no medals are to be worn, without due authority, except such as have been gained at any time for service in the defence of Canada. This paragraph clearly makes it compulsory that permission must be obtained to wear an Imperial medal for the Crimea, the Indian Mutiny, Egypt, Bhootan, &c., &c., or any military decoration whatever, with the above exception, by anyone serving in the Canadian militia. I wonder how many officers, high and low, n.c.o. and men have received this authority.

Last week I said that they did queer things in Quebec Province. Here are some samples. There is a certain school of instruction, clothed in scarlet—it was nearly clothed as Zouaves—at which officers are taught, in the latest Parisian style, how to lift their forage caps to the fair sex. This may be considered *tres jolie* and very gallant, but I doubt if it is in accordance with the customs of the British service. Perhaps this is one of the new fangled ideas which “Pultan’s” adjutant tried to introduce into the “Old Humbugs” and was very rightly sat upon.

At the same school the officers are made to remove their forage caps from their heads while in the orderly room. An officer after attending this school is placed in the position of having been instructed in these two items differently to the customs of the other schools. Although certain Imperial regiments may have special permission to take off their head-dress in the orderly room, still until this school (and accordingly all other schools) receive authority to do so, the customs of the militia must be complied with. These schools are models which the rest of the militia should copy, and should be conducted on the same basis.

Another is the total disregard of paragraph 282 respecting the wearing of medals. I am credibly informed that one corps has a large number of men in its ranks who, having been Papal Zouaves, wear in uniform certain Pontifical decorations—whether they are recognized as a military medal or not is quite a horse of another colour.

I am not objecting to the wearing of foreign war medals, whether they are Satanical or any other “ical,” but I must laugh when I see a man compelled by bias and regulations to wear his “iron cross” on his right breast like “a shooting medal.”

“Pultan” in his last letter gives some good advice to sergeants—such as “get your uniform altered to fit.” I presume he means at the sergeant’s own expense. They have a much nicer way of doing these things in the Imperial service and even in our own permanent corps. This is one of the privileges which we do not enjoy. The regulations inform us that an allowance in money will be made to enable c. o. to procure the articles required to be issued to staff-sergeants and sergeants. In the case of a sergt.-major Regiment of Canadian Artillery the allowance being \$30, of a sergeant \$25, and an additional allowance of 50 cents per annum to each n.c.o. and gunner for alterations. Now look at the case of a sergt.-major in a militia field battery. He receives no allowances whatever for clothing. He is served out with a gunner’s tunic and trousers; the tunic he has re-trimmed with gold lace, braid, &c.; he purchases a new forage cap, cross belt, sword belt, knot, spurs—no sabretache—and riding boots; he uses the Government cheese cutter, which has probably seen service at Waterloo or other ancient battle field. The tunic is too expensive to wear at every parade, so he buys himself an undress jacket. All this amounts to nearly \$100. I agree with “Pultan” partly—some of the n. c. o. might with advantage have their clothing altered—but it should be made a charge against the public.

But there is great encouragement offered to long course sergeants by the authorities. If you attend a long course we are told that the benefit of the allowance above mentioned, the free issue of any clothing exceeding in value of that issued to a gunner, is not applicable to them, and this after offering them 50 cents daily pay.

I can well say, and here I am in accord with the authorities, “that the estimates have been prepared with a due regard to economy,” but I must add, incompatible with public efficiency.

Paragraph 168 tells us how troops, batteries, &c., are to be divided for convenience of inspection and general supervision. Our regulations divide a garrison battery into two half companies, the Imperial into two sub-divisions.

The duties of the Adjutant-General and Department might have been inserted, also the duties of the Inspector of Artillery. A peculiarity about the rank of the Inspector is that it is his militia rank. Here is a staff officer, with virtually a command extending over the whole Dominion, ranking junior to numbers of c. o., always junior to the D.A.G. of a district, who is nobody outside of it. And we have a Surgeon-General of a few years ranking as a Colonel. I had an idea that a Surgeon-General had the relative rank of a Major-General. Well, we will all soon be Major-Generals, including
LINCHEPIN.

Two secretaries of Gen. Ferron, French Minister of War, have been arrested for disclosing to the *Figaro* the plan for carrying out the mobilization scheme and thus allowing its publication contrary to the Government’s wishes. General Ferron in order to remedy the premature revelation of the plans for the mobilization experiment is altering the plans.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Daily News* writes of a new wrinkle in French military service as follows: “Any reservist who is sufficiently skilled in the use of the bicycle will, on his application, be exempted from ordinary camp service and its hardships, to be used as military messenger. This new rule is already creating a great demand for bicycles.”

The *Popolo Romano* reports a “comforting experiment” in which 10,000 men were recently conveyed in 15 special trains from Pistoria, Italy, to Bologna in 24 hours, without disturbing the ordinary traffic. About 2,500 railway carriages and vans are now being constructed in Italy, which with 1,500 in hand elsewhere, give 4,000 new carriages for the Italian services.

The *Colonial Military Gazette*, published at Sydney, has been considering a scheme for the creation of an Australian army. Sydney already spends something like \$1,150,000 per annum on her defences, the expenditure of the whole of the united colonies in the Australasian group being set down at \$3,000,000. In the pay of general officers, allowance is made for one general in chief at \$7,500 a year, two divisional generals at \$6,250 each, and four brigadiers at \$3,750 each, all to be drawn from the home army.