

THE CAMPS OF INSTRUCTION.

Notes of the Brigade Assemblages in Four Provinces.

FAITHFUL WORK BY THE DWELLERS IN TENTS.

The annual camp of instruction for the First Military District was held this year at Stratford, Ont., from the 19th to the 30th June. It was the first under the command of the present Deputy Adjutant General, Lieut.-Col. Smith, the commandant of D School of Infantry, London. The strength of the corps encamped was made up as follows:

	N.C.O.			N.C.O.	
	OFFICERS.	AND MEN.		OFFICERS.	AND MEN.
London Field Battery..	4	69	27th Lambton Inf.....	28	320
Guelph A & B Bat's... 13	136		29th Waterloo ".....	18	204
21st Essex Fusiliers... 21	208		32nd Bruce ".....	33	334
22nd Oxford Rifles... 26	334		33rd Huron ".....	23	227
			Total.....	166	1,882

The following constituted the Staff: Brigade Major, Lieut.-Col. Hon. M. Aylmer; Orderly Officer, Major W. H. Lindsay, 25th Bn.; Paymaster, Lieut.-Col. M. D. Dawson; Quartermaster, Major W. W. White, 30th Bn.; Supply Officer, Major A. M. Smith, 7th Bn.; Principal Medical Officer, Surgeon Major V. A. Brown, London Field Battery; Musketry Instructor, Capt. T. R. Coogan, 24th Bn.

The camp was located on the heights north-east of the town of Stratford, and on the north side of the Avon river or rivulet. The site proved fairly good, both for camping and drill, but a great drawback existed in the shape of a lack of drinking water. The Stratford water supply system had been extended to the grounds, and there were numerous taps available, but the water proved anything but palatable, and was mainly used for washing purposes, the wells of neighbouring farm-houses being drawn upon for the drinking water. It appears that the residents of Stratford also use well water for drinking. The infantry lines were about four hundred yards each from the stream, and the artillery camp was laid out on the right front, between the infantry tents and the stream. The Staff tents were in a square, dividing the infantry into two camps, with the 21st, 22nd and 27th on the right, and the 29th, 32nd and 33rd on the left. The camp was kept in admirable order throughout, and strict discipline was manifested, the prescribed work being performed without a hitch. Practical movements in squad, company, and battalion drill, successively, occupied the time almost exclusively, there being none to spare for brigade movements, except on Friday last, when the final review took place, prefatory to breaking camp next morning. This review showed the troops to have attained a familiarity with their duties really wonderful, considering their limited opportunities for acquiring the knowledge, and the small encouragement given them. Marked *esprit du corps* prevails, however, amongst the troops of the First Military District, and a great many companies are found who drill every year and at all seasons, and come to camp the possessors of a more intimate knowledge of their duties than without other preparation they might naturally be expected to have upon concluding, rather than commencing, the biennial drill.

NOTES.

In the absence of Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, who was unable to attend camp, the 1st Brigade Field Artillery was in charge of Major Nicoll, the officer commanding No. 1 Battery. Lieut.-Col. Peters of the London Battery, was the commandant of the artillery division in camp, consisting of his own and the two Guelph batteries.

The 21st Essex Fusiliers are fortunate in the possession of an enthusiast such as Lieut.-Col. J. R. Wilkinson, as commanding officer. And he is doubly fortunate in having enrolled under him an energetic and capable body of men imbued with his own enthusiasm and working together to raise the regiment to the highest possible standard. Organized in 1885, the 21st has three times since been to camp, in '85, '86, and '88, and has won honours on each occasion, in '86 obtaining special praise from the Minister of Militia and the D. A. G. The regiment appear this year in regulation Fusilier busbies, which replace the white helmets and add greatly to the appearance on parade.

The 22nd Bn. Oxford Rifles is a quarter of a century old this year, having been organized in 1863. This was the only regiment of Rifles in camp. The rifle green uniforms looked shabby in contrast with the scarlet coats of the rest of the foot soldiers, but what the 22nd thus lack in appearance they make up in drill and discipline. The fact that there is only one commission vacant, in the eight companies, speaks for itself, being unmistakable evidence of the popularity and prosperity of the corps. Col. Munro has the honour to command. The 22nd are blest

with a Royal Military College graduate for adjutant, this being Capt. W. M. Davis, who has filled that post since 1885. The shooting men amongst our readers will be particularly interested in the fact that the paymaster of the regiment, Major A. R. McCleneghan—one of the 37-8 veterans—was a member of the Canadian team Col. Skinner took to Wimbledon in 1871, and which was the forerunner of the team since sent annually by the Dominion Rifle Association. The 22nd have sworn in a member of parliament as Quartermaster—Capt. Jas. Sutherland—but he is on the wrong side of the House to influence the supplies.

The 27th Bn. St. Clair Borderers—a smart corps all through—is the possessor of the best drilled company in the First Military District, for such the D. A. G., emphatically pronounces No. 7 Company to be. This is the Sarnia company, Capt. C. S. Ellis, who having served some time in the regiment of Canadian Artillery has carried away with him and put into practice in his company the snap which characterizes the artillery drill. At the regimental inspection in camp on the 27th June, they drilled with a wonderful precision which surprised and delighted all beholders; and Col. Smith, whose attention had several times previously been directed to the company, was unstinted in his praise of it when at the close of the inspection he addressed the officers of the regiment. No. 7 has a permanently live organization; the best young men of Sarnia are to be found in the ranks, and so numerous are the applications for admission that the ballot system of rejection or acceptance has been adopted, the possibility of the introduction of objectionable members being thus minimised. The 27th is a smart regiment all though being well officered and manned, and having in Lt.-Col. C. E. H. Fisher a thoroughly good soldier at its head.

A German-Canadian himself, and an exceedingly worthy representative, Lieut.-Col. George Hespeler commands, in the 29th Waterloo Bn. of Infantry, a corps recruited in the German stronghold in Ontario, and largely composed of men thoroughly imbued with the German love for military life. The colonel told the MILITIA GAZETTE representative who visited Stratford Camp that he contemplates early retirement from the command. By seniority this would then fall to Major E. J. Beaumont, who has held his present rank since 1884. The subject of support of the militia paper coming up, it was pointed out that the 29th occupied an exceptional position in this respect, Major Beaumont being the only officer whose name figures upon the subscription list. Whereupon the Colonel said he had been informed by his officers that they did not care to risk subscription, having already had experience of a paper which suspended publication before the term they had paid for had fully expired! Would comment be superfluous?

Lieut.-Col. Biggar being incapacitated, by a paralytic stroke, the 32nd Bruce Infantry came to camp this year in command of the next in seniority, Major B. B. Boyd, whose proud boast it was that his regiment appeared with every officer at his post and all the commissions filled—a state of affairs as exceptional as creditable.

The Stratford papers were exceedingly attentive to the volunteers, publishing each day three or four columns apiece of interesting matter anent them. The *Herald*, whose tent and art gallery were objects of interest to all visitors, embellished its reports with an excellent diagram of the camp. The MILITIA GAZETTE man is indebted to the Messrs. Dingman, proprietors of the *Herald*, for many courtesies.

General Middleton arrived in camp on Thursday afternoon, 21st ult., attended by Capt. Wise, A. D. C. That evening he lectured on "Outpost Duties" before the officers of the brigade, and the next day he made an informal inspection of the camp, there being no special parade.

The artillery inspection by Col. Irwin, Dominion Inspector of Artillery, took place on the 27th ult. There being no range available at Stratford, the batteries attending that camp have yet to perform their firing practice.

The Brigade Sergeant-Major was Sergeant-Major Munroe, of D Co., I.S.C., under whose able direction everything was as regular as clock-work. Sergeant Burns, of D Co., was chief of the camp police.

The citizens of Stratford entertained the officers at a ball at the skating rink on the evening of Wednesday, the 27th ult.

There was no church parade on the Sunday spent in camp. It had been intended to have service on the grounds at 9 a.m., but rain prevented the intention being put into effect.

Isaac Walton, of Stratford, fished Pte. Arthur Niven, of the 32nd, out of the Avon on Friday evening, 22nd ult., just as that volunteer, who could not swim, was drowning, he having ventured beyond his depth.

The 27th Batt. Band is represented by the regulation 21 men, out of a total of 38 men when at home. It is under the able management of W. Philp, band-master, J. J. Skeffington, sergeant, late of the 100th Prince of Wales Regiment, and Corporal W. Parsons, son of Major-Gen. Parsons of the British army. In the band are a few old timers who have done service in Zululand and India, and the band sergeant has been in