

# Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1874.

(Continued from Page 172.)

## APPENDIX NO. 1.

### MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 4.

Deputy Adjutant-General's Office,

BROCKVILLE, 18th Dec. 1874.

Sir,—Pursuant to General Orders, dated 3rd January, 1874 I have the honor to submit this my annual report on the operations of the Active Militia in this District for the current year. I also enclose "Abstract Inspection Report" and "Brigade Target Practice Returns."

The total numbers which have performed the Annual Drill for 1874-75 are as follows:—

Officers 141, N. C. officers and men 1684, horses 226.

Total officers and men 1825.

Relieved by General Orders and special authority, from performing the annual drill, 453 officers and men.

A Brigade Camp was formed at Ottawa on the 22nd June, composed of the following corps and strength.

	Officers.	N.C. and Men.	Horses.
Staff.....	6	6	6
<i>Cavalry.</i>			
Prescott Troop.....	3	42	42
Ottawa do.....	3	42	41
<i>Artillery.</i>			
Ottawa Field Battery.....	6	66	69
<i>Infantry and Rifles.</i>			
2 & 3 Cos., 18th Battalion.....	6	66	2
1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Cos., 41st Battalion.....	15	188	3
2, 3, 5, 6 & 7 Cos., 42nd do.....	15	210	4
8, & 6 Cos., 43rd do.....	6	67	
1, 2, 4, & 7 Cos., 56th do.....	13	153	2
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 Cos., 59th do.....	22	295	4
	95	1138	176
Total officers and men.....		1233	

The following corps performed the drill by special permission or under the orders relating to city corps.

	Officers.	N.C. and Men.	Horses.
Gananoque Field Battery.			
In Camp at Local Head Quarters..	5	60	50
1, 2, 4 & 6 Batteries, Ottawa.			
Brigade Garrison Artillery at			
Local Head Quarters.....	15	156	
Governor General's Foot Guards.			
(Special organization) do do say	26	330	
	46	516	50
Total officers and men.....	592		
do do in Brigade camp..	1233		176
Total number drilled.....		1825	276

The following Batteries and Companies were allowed by general Orders, or by special permission, to dispense with drill for the present year.

	Officer.	N.C. and Men.
Nos. 3, 5, & 7 Bat., Ottawa Brigade.		
Garrison Artillery, say.....	9	126
Nos. 1, 2, 7 & 9 Cos., 43rd Battalion.....	12	168
Nos. 3, 5 & 6 Cos., 56th do.....	12	126
	33	420
Total officers and men.....		453

Having witnessed for many years the great waste of ammunition by men being sent to the targets without sufficient (in many cases none whatever) instruction in position and aiming drill or the theoretical principles of

Musketry Instruction, I deemed it best to order the course of Target practice to be confined to ten rounds per man, five to be fired at 200 yards and five at 400 yards, which number was accordingly fired by each man in camp. The great number of misses at these short ranges, is, I think, sufficient proof that the arrangement was a wise one, and trust it will meet with your approbation.

In addition to the tabular inspection returns, and target practice abstract herewith submitted, I have the honor to bring before your notice each corps in the district.

### Cavalry.

Prescott Troop, Major Walsh, (on leave). Officers in camp, Lieut. Raney and Cornet Satchell; Ottawa Troop, Captain Sparks.

By special permission I secured the services of Lt. Col. Lovelace to take charge of this arm of the service while in camp, consequently the two troops were formed into a squadron and placed under that officers command, to whose efficiency and exertions, ably assisted by the zealous officers of the respective troops, is due, for the marked improvement and general efficiency attained. Both officers, non commissioned officers and troopers are zealous workers, clean and soldierly. The horses were very fair, and improvement in drill as detailed in tabular return very satisfactory.

### Artillery.

Ottawa Field Battery,—Captain Stewart.

This Battery mustered in its usual efficient manner, and carried out the ordinary camp duties, taking part in all field days, route marches etc., but owing to the large number of rafts in the Ottawa River, it was impossible to carry out the usual course of shot and shell practice. The inspection of this corps was made by the Assistant Inspector of Artillery.

I may here mention that on my recommendation, Lieut. Harris, O. B. G. A., was appointed Veterinary-Surgeon for this encampment. His services were highly appreciated, and by the inspection and treatment of all horses in camp, prevented any claims for sickness or injury, consequently much trouble and expense was doubtless saved. Now that we have such a large number of horses going through drill annually, I think a Veterinary-Surgeon should be appointed to either the cavalry or artillery of the District.

Gananoque Field Battery,—Captain McKenzie.

This corps is in possession of part of the necessary equipment only, viz:—Three guns and one Howitzer with carriages and limbers. (no caissons). Harness for twenty four horses, saddlery for the non commissioned officers and clothing complete. As these stores were not issued until towards the end of the summer, permission was given for the annual drill to be performed in camp at local head quarters. The camp was formed on the first day of September, and continued for twelve days, during which, shot and shell practice was carried at 1,000 yards and 1,700 yards. Best shot in Battery, Gunner Birmingham.

The inspection was made by the Assistant Inspector of Artillery, accompanied by the Brigade Major of the Division, the latter officer reported everything correct regular and satisfactory.

Previous to the encampment I personally inspected the harness and store rooms, and found the harness correctly put up and properly cared for and other stores in good order. Captain McKenzie deserves special mention for the energy displayed in the organization of this Battery.

Ottawa Brigade Garrison Artillery.—Lieut. Col. Egleson.

The city Batteries (Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 6) performed the drill under the general orders relating to city corps, at local headquarters; Nos. 3 and 5 Batteries being rural corps, had special permission to dispense with drill for the present year; No. 7. Battery performed no drill. I inspected the four batteries on the 11th December, (extension of time being authorized). The men paraded clean and soldierly, and performed proving in fours and manual exercise indifferently. A detachment from each Battery performed big gun drill satisfactorily.

I noticed an improvement in the physique of the men, and the morale is evidently improving. The officers are zealous, and I have no doubt but the whole Brigade will be efficiently organized in time for next year's annual drill.

The Band of twenty six musicians is very efficient and reflects much credit on the corps.

Owing to the impossibility of the officers leaving their civil occupations to attend the school of gunnery, promotion has come to a stand, which is operating very injuriously. If an instructor were sent to a corps from "A" Battery for a few months, and if the assistant inspector of artillery could, during that period deliver a few lectures to the officers, there is no doubt but they could prove their efficiency sufficient to ensure their promotion, I therefore trust that some means may be devised to overcome this difficulty.

I am not in favour of corps performing drill at local headquarters, but where instruction in big gun drill is necessary, this cannot well be avoided in this district. But as Garrison Artillery require to understand Battalion drill as well as big gun, I think that an annual drill performed occasionally in brigade camp would be advantageous to the corps, as well as the District at large.

I take the liberty of again calling attention to the very inadequate Drill Shed accommodation at Ottawa. The armories are very open and the roofs leak in winter, the drill room is quite too small, and from its peculiar construction is not adapted to the purpose intended. The force at the capital is, I think, deserving of much better accommodation.

### Infantry and Rifle Corps.

The Governor General's Foot Guards (6 comps.) are organized under special regulations, and communicate direct with headquarters; but I presume that they are on the numerical strength. Although I have not officially inspected this corps, I have seen sufficient of it to know that it is well organized, and presents a fine soldierly appearance on parade.

18th Battalion (Inf.) County of Prescott, (6 companies).—Lieut. Col. Urquhart.

This Battalion has not mustered since September, 1871 (at which time it was one of the best in the District) consequently it is now very much disorganized, a special report on this subject was forwarded some time ago.

Nos. 3 and 5 companies were present in camp this year, and were attached for drill and discipline to the 42nd Battalion, I may add that, these two companies were present at the previous Brigade Camp.

41st Battalion, Brockville Rifles (6 companies). Lieut. Col. Cole.

This battalion was present in camp, except No. 6 company which failed to join. This I attribute more to the officers than the men, several of whom assembled but