

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF
THE MILITIA FOR 1873.

APPENDIX No. 1

(Continued from Page. 256)

The Brigade Major from Cobourg accompanied the Force to the camp at Peterborough, and remained there to assist the officer commanding during the period of the annual drill. But there was no recognised Staff Officer authorised to take charge of the equipment, as was done in the Camps of 1872-73, consequently we cannot now tell to which Corps the missing articles were addressed. And to prevent loss to the Militia Department, I beg to recommend that the damages when assessed by competent officers, shall be charged proportionately amongst all the Corps interested.

I append a report (A) from Lt.-Col. Boulton upon the conduct of the camp, and would also remark that the system of forming large camps for the annual drill each year, with a properly organized staff should be continued, this being the most popular and effectual method of inducing the men to turn out, and of imparting to them the necessary instruction.

The only complaint made to me officially is one (B) by Lt.-Col. James Brown, M. P., commanding the 49th Hastings Battalion of Rifles, at Belleville, with regard to the state of the medicine chest issued in the corps under his command, from the District Stores at Kingston. I enclose the letter of complaint, supported by the certificate of the medical officer, of the battalion. These medicine chests should be overlooked by a competent medical officer, employed for that purpose by the Militia Department, after each time of issue, and their contents replenished before they are again required for active service.

The batteries of artillery, which performed the annual drill, were inspected by the officer commanding the artillery in Ontario, at the same time that the general inspection and muster took place by the District Staff Officers. His report, I presume, will be forwarded direct to head Quarters, as it has not been sent to me.

I observed in most of the infantry corps inspected, a number of rifles in bad order, some of them quite useless as arms of precision, for want of needful repairs to the locks, sights and barrels, and there are no means at hand to make such repairs nor are there any skilled armourers attached to the Active Force for this purpose. It is generally understood that a certain number of small-arm armourers from England are now in Canada, paid and subsisted by the Dominion Government, but not under the orders or control of the active Militia. It would appear desirable that these armourers should be utilized in repairing the damaged rifles, of which there must be now a great number throughout the country.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

S. P. JARVIS, Lt.-Col.

D. A. G. Commanding

Military District No. 3.

The Acting Adjt. General of Militia,

Head Quarters Ottawa.

[A]

Cobourg, Sept, 1873.

Lt. Colonel Jarvis,

Deputy Adjt.-General, Kingston.

DEAR SIR,—Having taken advantage of the permission granted to perform the annual drill at Peterboro' simultaneously with the infantry of this division, as senior officer of the brigade in command, I beg to submit a report of the camp.

The corps present were the Northumberland and Durham squadron, and the Peterboro' troop of cavalry. The 40th, 45th, 46th, and 57th Battalions of Infantry.

The camp was laid out and conducted in stricts accord with the regulations for drill, guards, target practice, &c. The Brigade field movements were very creditably performed.

The conduct of the force in camp was good. The situation was spacious and well selected by Colonel Poole, of the 57th, upon the side of the Otonabee river, three miles from the town.

As this was the first Brigade muster under the Militia Officers of the Brigade Division, it affords me pleasure to be able to report satisfactorily in every respect, and to add that arrangements, commissariat and otherwise, were satisfactory to officers and men alike.

The cavalry marched to and from camp without accident. The Infantry arranged for their own transport.

The muster in Brigade was more approved by the several corps than separate regimental musters at the head quarters of the various corps, and the feeling was generally expressed of a desire to continue next year the same system.

It was impossible to fire 40 rounds of ball practice without dispensing with all drill. Each corps fired as much as the time would permit and dispensed 10 rounds each.

Brigade Major Smith joined camp, and was the only staff officer present. I have no casualties to mention.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

D. E. ROLTON,

Lt.-Col. Commanding.

[B]

HEAD QUARTERS, 49TH BATTALION,

BELLEVILLE, Sept. 30th 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor herewith to enclose (C) the Medical Report of the Battalion while in camp, and also to add that the sending of a medicine chest, for actual use, in such a condition is simply disgraceful, and reflects strongly on the officer in charge of this department, (see account of medicine at foot of report, and order a remittance.)

The Battalion which consisted of Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5 companies mustered 203 rank and file, with 16 officers. No. 4 Company, (Madoc), declined to turn out in accordance with Battalion orders. The camp was formed on the 8th inst. and broke up on the 16th, and on the 15th was inspected by Lt.-Col. Jarvis, D. A. General, who made a thorough and close examination of the men, the clothing, accoutrements, and camp, and have great pleasure in stating that the conduct of the men throughout was highly creditable. No body of men could have behaved better during the period of drill. I beg to state, however, that 40 rounds per man to be fired at target practice is in my opinion

altogether too much, as in the space of 8 days there is not sufficient time left for instruction in the use of the rifle. The target practice returns accompany this report, duly certified.

I have also to report that the clothing of the battalion having served the allotted time, has now become almost inserviceable.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES BROWN, Lt.-Col.

The Brigade-Major, Kingston,

(C)

FRONT OF SIDNEY, Sept. 16, 1873.

Report of State of Health of the 49th Battalion while in Camp.

The health of the men was good, no doubt owing to the position of the camp, and the temperate habits of the men. I attended three cases of intermittent fever, for which I had to purchase quinine, the medicine chest had not that or any drug in it. In fact it might as well have been in the store at Kingston, it not having been refilled since last year's camp. I hope this will be remedied in the future, quinine being such a necessary drug in a camp.

ROBERT TRACY, Assistant Surgeon.

49th Battalion,

Dr. to R. Tracy, M. D.

To quinine purchased for use of men \$1,50

MILITARY DISTRICT, No. 4.

BROCKVILLE, 1st Nov. 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit this my report on the operations of the Militia in Military District No. 4, during the past four months, viz: from 1st July last, to date.

June seems to be the most favourable month for the great majority of the corps in the district to perform the annual drill, consequently, as the general orders authorizing the drill for 1873-74 did not permit the same to commence before the 1st July, there was but one troop and one company which availed themselves of it, previous to the harvest.

I would here mention that, if corps could be allowed to commence the annual drill, say about the 15th June, for the year following, it would, I think, be largely availed of, and would also give plenty of time to wind up the year's operations, without hurry just at the close.

Owing to the uncertain date at which the harvest is gathered, together with the short days and cold nights after the 1st September, there is a general aversion to going into camp during the autumn, hence the desirability of allowing the drill to be performed as before suggested.

In addition to the "Tabular Inspection Returns" and "Abstract Target Practice Returns" herewith enclosed, permit me to report on the several corps in order of seniority—firstly, on those which have performed the drill, and secondly those which purpose doing so by the end of June, 1874.

Prescott Troop of Cavalry.

The Prescott Troop of Cavalry—Major Walsh—mustering three officers, forty-two non commissioned officers and troopers, and thirty nine horses, by special permission from head quarters, went into camp at Prescott on the second July, and performed