

Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1875.

(Continued from page 136.)

APPENDIX No. 1.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 1.

Head Quarters, London,
7th December, 1875.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward for submission to the Major General commanding, the enclosed Inspection Report of the corps in the District under my command which have performed their annual drill for the year 1875.

The Active Militia Force in this District consists of—

The 1st Regiment of Cavalry, 4 Troops.
The "London" Field Battery,
The "Wellington" Field Battery,
2 Garrison Batteries,
9 Regiments of Infantry,
2 Regiments of Rifles.

CAMPS.

In obedience to your instructions, the force above named performed their Drill in Brigade Camps under my command. The first Brigade at London; the 2nd Brigade at Guelph; for a period of 12 days each.

The first Brigade Division assembled at London on the 7th September on ground well situated a short distance from the town.

The strength of this Camp was—

1st Regiment of Cavalry, 4 Troop, 15 officers, 160 non commissioned officers and men, with 175 horses, under command of Lieut. Colonel Cole.

The London Field Battery with the Sarnia Garrison Battery attached, 7 officers, 113 non commissioned officers and men and 60 horses, under command of Major Peters.

The 7th Battalion Infantry, 21 officers, 299 non commissioned officers and men, under command of Lieut. Colonel Macbeth.

The 22nd Battalion Rifles, 24 officers, 306 non commissioned officers and men, under Lieut. Colonel Cowan.

The 24th Battalion Infantry, 19 officers, 274 non commissioned officers and men, under Lieut. Colonel Smith.

25th Battalion Infantry, 19 officers, 236 non commissioned officers and men, under Lieut. Colonel O'Malley.

The 26th Battalion Infantry, 23 officers, 314 non commissioned officers and men, under Lieut. Colonel Attwood.

The 27th Battalion Infantry, 21 officers, 290 non commissioned officers and men, under Lieut. Colonel Davis; being a total of 151 officers, and 2090 non commissioned officers and men, 4 guns and 235 horses.

The 2nd Brigade Division assembled at their usual camping ground near Guelph on the 22nd June in the following strength, viz.

The Wellington Field Battery, with Goderich Garrison Artillery attached, 6 officers, 113 men and 59 horses, under Major McDonald.

The 28th Battalion Infantry, 17 officers, 252 non commissioned officers and men, under Lieut. Colonel Smith.

The 29th Battalion Infantry, 17 officers, 208 non commissioned officers and men, under Lieut. Colonel Peck.

The 30th Battalion Rifles, 27 officers, 415 non commissioned officers and men, under Lieut. Colonel Clarke, M.P.L.

The 32nd Battalion Infantry, 23 officers, 291 non commissioned officers and men, under Lieut. Colonel Sproat.

The 33rd Battalion Infantry, 23 officers, 319 non commissioned officers and men, under Lieut. Colonel Ross, M. P. L; being a total of 113 officers, 1598 non commissioned officers and men, with 4 guns and 59 horses.

Thus the total numbers of the two camps was 264 officers, 3690 non commissioned officers and men, 314 horses with 8 guns.

I beg to call your attention to the fact that though the corps have been reduced in nominal strength, yet the general average of companies is so complete, that the number of men who have drilled this year is the third largest muster since the passing of the Militia Act in 1868.

The localities of Guelph and London appear to be the ones best suited for camps in this District on account of their central situation and the lines of railway which converge there, making the transport of men and stores much less expensive than at the more remote points.

The London Camp Ground is well suited for a camp, but there is no ground sufficiently extensive for Brigade Drill unless some were rented for this purpose, which would be very desirable.

The conveniences at Guelph are all that can be desired, and the Municipal Corporations there do all in their power to make the camp a success and pleasant to the Force.

CAVALRY.

The 1st Regiment of Cavalry under Lieut. Colonel Cole I found much improved in drill both of men and horses and the men more generally provided with those minor requirements, straps, spurs and gloves, &c., which mark the distinction between the smart and the slovenly cavalry soldier. The Regiment came provided for the first time with a mounted Band which promises to be a very good one.

It appears surprising that so efficient a body of Infantry and Artillery as were inspected by the Major General commanding at Guelph Camp, should fail of being complete on account of having no Cavalry to that Brigade Division; I would most respectfully urge that 2 Troops of Cavalry may be formed somewhere near the centre of the Division. I have frequently received offers to raise Cavalry corps there and require only the authority to do so, and I would suggest that action be taken at once, so that the officers have time in this winter to get all ready for camp next year.

ARTILLERY.

The Artillery as at former camps turn out the most efficient and soldier like body of men in the District, setting an excellent example to the others in Camp with them. The Field Batteries had 4 days extra at Camp for shot and shell practice which they much profited by.

I attached the Sarnia Garrison Battery to the London Field Battery and the Goderich Garrison Battery to the Wellington Field Battery, an arrangement that worked very well for both corps. They were inspected the Assistant Inspector of Artillery who appeared well satisfied.

INFANTRY.

I believe that one third of the Infantry were new men, but it is astonishing how soon they picked up the duties of camp life and improved rapidly in drill.

The Brigade which the Major General commanding inspected at Guelph on the 1st July was composed of a large proportion of recruits who after about a weeks Battalion Drill were put in Brigade and "marched past," performed several Brigade move-

ments, skirmishing &c., and ended by firing "Feu de joie." To attempt such a programme would appear an absurdity to one unacquainted with the naturally very quick perceptive faculties of Canadians which added to their generally good education makes the Canadian soldier pick up drill far more easily than his English brother, through it is more difficult to instil discipline and that unhesitating obedience to orders so fully carried out in Her Majesty's regular army and of such vital importance in all military bodies.

There can be no doubt but that these camps afford the best method of training the force at their annual drill and I can confidently assert that the two Brigades in this District are now more efficient and ready for active service than at any previous time during the last ten years, while each camp gives them more experience in cooking and making the best of their rations, and making themselves comfortable in their tents, the ignorance of which in a campaign fills the hospitals and makes men discontented and dispirited.

I believe the months of June and September are the best for camping in this district, the actual date for assembling must depend on the lateness of or earliness of the season, but the general time for each camp should be understood so that men can make their private arrangements beforehand.

TARGET PRACTICE.

All the men in camp with a few exceptions fired 15 rounds per man at Target practice, making as will be seen by the returns a fair average, but I have again to submit the great advantage that in my opinion would result if prizes were given for the best shots at Target practice performed during drill in camp, and I feel sure that money so granted would be highly appreciated by the men, while it is evident that it could not be divided among a few of the best shots, which is I fear too often the result of money granted to Rifle Associations.

MUSTER.

At both of these camps every man was mustered in my presence, and I personally inspected all the arms, accoutrements and clothing, which I found in serviceable condition, though the forage caps appear capable of improvement. Many corps require new issue of slings which have been fairly worn out, the issue having been made 15 years ago of old ones thrown aside from the regular army.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

A marquee at each camp was set apart for use of the Young Men's Christian Association a most worthy institution and one that I believe gives a tone of morality generally to the men in camp, and supports those desirous of setting a good example.

I found it very difficult to stop the sale of spirituous liquors in the canteens in camp, and after consultation with the commanding officers I received with much pleasure an intimation from all of them at London Camp requesting that at the next camp no canteens should be allowed.

CARE OF ARMS, CLOTHING, &c.

In order that the man who loses any article of public property committed to his charge may be made responsible for it instead of too often falling a burden on the shoulders of the Captain, it would appear to me to be practicable to arrange for the payment of each man after his annual drill, by an order on the Paymaster, signed by his Captain to certify that the man has given into