

(No 60.)



1899.

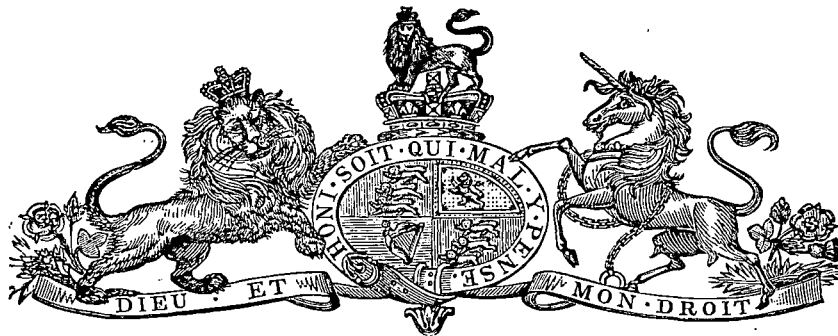
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE:

REPORT BY THE COMMANDANT.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command

Cost of printing—£10 18s. 6d.



Head Quarter's Office, 1st January, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my Annual Report as follows :—

General.

Command.—On the 25th March last I took over the command of the Tasmanian Forces from Colonel A. T. Cox, C.B.

Camp.—My first work was the carrying out of the Easter training at the site for the camp chosen by Lieutenant-Colonel Wallack near Campbell Town. A detailed report on the training was submitted by me shortly after its conclusion. The muster, it will be remembered, was not so good as was expected, owing to the heavy weather that prevailed in the north, and the men being insufficiently provided with uniform and great-coats. Allusion will be made to the subject of clothing in a subsequent paragraph.

The camp being purely a voluntary one, and the men unpaid, they were not called out, as heretofore, under the Army Act, nevertheless the discipline was excellent. All ranks did their best to profit by the training; but as the instructional staff last year was utterly insufficient for the training of the outlying companies, which are much split up into isolated detachments, many men came into camp raw. The daylight training at camp is the only chance (so long as the staff of instructors is so limited) of making the Infantry of the Colony efficient.

The want of daylight parades during the year, which men will not attend in any numbers without pay, is furthermore a cause of rawness when the men come to camp, and the time which should be devoted to tactical training at Easter is taken up in instructional drill (company and battalion). This is manifestly a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, which can only be remedied by the return to the old system of paid daylight parades, as in the other Colonies.

I am very hopeful this year of getting a portion of the Force in camp to remain five days, and thus initiate the beginning of a longer training, on which I wrote strongly last year in my Camp Report.

Batteries.—Shortly after taking over command I made a minute inspection of the batteries on the Derwent, and found no range-finding apparatus in them. The armament and ammunition were in a satisfactory state, with the exception of certain repairs to carriages and mountings which had been neglected, and which were attended to at once.

Inspections.—At my quarterly inspections of the various corps in Hobart and Launceston the musters were very fair, the Launceston Artillery turning out usually in the greatest proportion to their strength, followed by the Southern Tasmanian Artillery.

The number of efficient in the Artillery Corps and the town companies of the Infantry Battalions depends in great measure on the attendance at the Commandant's Inspections; but the Commanding Officers have not received the regulation capitation allowance of late years for the effective members on their rolls. The capitation grant, as laid down in the Regulations, and calculated on a *per capita* basis, should in future be strictly adhered to.

Defence Committee.—Following on the two recent Meetings of the Defence Committee, convened for the purpose of reporting on the inadequate nature of the Defences of the Colony, and recommending an increase of equipment and armament, I convened a third meeting in August, in order to reiterate the strong recommendations already made. Of the several important points dwelt upon, the following only have received attention, viz. :—(1.) Acquisition of new small-bore rifles; and (2.) Maxim guns.

500 Martini-Enfield Rifles have been ordered and received.

Four Maxim '303 guns have been ordered with their carriages and equipment, but have not arrived yet.

A second consignment of 500 small-bore rifles should be ordered at once.

The Martini rifles are all over their time in wear, and some are in a bad state, especially those in the hands of country companies. You will therefore see how serious the matter is in connection with the present equipment of the infantry, and I venture to hope that there will be as little delay as possible in carrying out the re-arming of this branch of the Force.

In connection with the work of the Defence Committee, I submitted last year a confidential report on the defences of the Derwent, pointing out what requires to be done to improve them, and I trust that Government will give every consideration to the subject.

Visit to Defences on the Mainland.—Finding, on my inspection of the forts, that they had not been kept up to date in regard to important points connected with the service of the guns, I obtained permission to visit the fortifications in Victoria and New South Wales for the purpose of ascertaining what progress had been made there of late years, and as to how matters stood in regard to the introduction of quick-firing guns for the defences of these Colonies. I made a detailed inspection of the principal forts in Victoria and New South Wales, inquired into the working of the School of Gunnery now established in Sydney, the organisation of the Army Medical Corps and Army Transport Corps in New South Wales, *both of which branches are conspicuously absent in this force*, the organisation of the Field Engineer Corps in Victoria, the drill, equipment and work of the Mounted Infantry in that Colony, and various other matters in connection with defence.

With reference to the above-mentioned departmental Corps a subsequent paragraph will be found in reference to the first-named, detailing what has been done to organise it. The want of any transport organisation in our force is still existent, and until it is supplied, great difficulties will present themselves whenever a mobilisation becomes necessary. A Transport Corps cannot be raised and the men trained at a moment's notice, and if these matters are not undertaken beforehand, and when there is sufficient time at the disposal of the Staff, they cannot certainly be attended to in a hurry, when other departmental matters are occupying serious attention. Whenever the Force goes into camp, much expense is entailed in the hire of horses, carts, and men for the transport of the equipment, and a great deal of this would be saved if the Force possessed its own carts, harness, and men, as in the other Colonies. I hope, therefore, that permission will be given to form the nucleus of a small Transport Corps and acquire the necessary equipment.

Charge of Batteries.—On Captain Parker giving up command of the Batteries and Torpedo Corps, I was requested to take charge of these services, including the command of the Permanent Artillery. These are sub-charges, quite foreign to the duties of an officer in command of the whole forces, and as my staff is so small, and my administration includes the control of the pay and ordnance work in this department (which are services not directly under the Commandant in the other Colonies), I am unable to give as much time as I should like, either to the care of the matériel in the artillery and engineer branches, or the instruction of the corps. In order to place them on a satisfactory footing in peace time, and to properly direct their operations in war, a young officer of artillery, with special qualifications, should be procured from England to take command of the artillery and engineers, and have charge of the forts and their armament.

I have the honour, now, to report as follows on the various matters connected with my command :—

Defences of the Colony.

Batteries of the Derwent.—I have reported on the unsatisfactory state of the Batteries in regard to small up-to-date improvements, and asked for a small sum with which, in a few weeks, the necessary alterations and additions could be made. This has been refused, and I have been informed that these services will be attended to when Federation is accomplished. I have to point out that the question is not in any way connected with the expected additions to the defences by a Federal Government. Means are simply being asked for wherewith to properly train the gunners for the work expected of them in the Batteries at present existing. I trust, therefore, that my request will be acceded to.

The 6-inch B.L.H.P. guns were ordered by a letter from home, in 1894, to be chase-hooped, so as to be strong enough to fire the full charge with safety, and which is especially required in dealing with the wide estuary of the Derwent. This precaution, I found on my recent visit to the mainland, had been carried out there. I recommend, therefore, that our guns be at once strengthened, in order to be used with full charges.

The two heavy guns in the Bluff Battery, being powerful weapons, and very accurate in shooting, should be "converted" into B. Loaders, which would much increase their efficiency. Plans and estimates for this work have been received from the Elswick firm.

Electric Light.—The electric light at One Tree Point is in very good order, and gives excellent result. Both the engine and the dynamo have more power than is required for the

lamp, and I have recently successfully experimented with them in running the One Tree Point lamp and that belonging to the Queen's Battery at the same time, the latter being employed for auxiliary purposes. The dynamos at the Queen's Battery are useless for the light there; one is quite out of order, and the other is not satisfactory, and not powerful enough to give the light required. A new-pattern dynamo should at once be procured. It will cost about £75, and a small sum could be raised by the sale of the old machines to assist in the purchase.

Clothing and Equipment.

Clothing.—I have to report unfavourably on matters connected with the clothing of the Infantry, and also the field equipment of the Force. The officers commanding many of the country companies have received no clothing grant for several years, the consequence being that the clothing of many of their men was, last year, in a very bad state. A good many men are still without great-coats. Nearly the whole of these coats are considerably over their time in wear; there were consequently about 800 great-coats required this year, but I have only been given authority to purchase 250. These are to be made locally, the cloth for these coats, which is being supplied by a Hobart firm, is of good quality, and I now ask that money may be granted to furnish the remainder with.

Field Equipment.—Both bell tents and marquees have diminished so much in numbers that there is not sufficient tent accommodation for the number of troops enrolled. Heavy losses have taken place, owing to the ill-use and burning of tents lent to the bush fire committees, and the wearing out of others lent for field hospitals during fever epidemics. I most strongly recommend that, in view of future requirements, a supply of tents be procured by the Public Works Department, so that those belonging to the Defence Force need be no longer lent for the above purposes. A supply of bell tents, and several of larger pattern, are now required to make up the deficiency.

Permanent Artillery.

This Corps was originally formed during my first administration, in order to furnish a small body of well-trained gunners to assist in manning the more important guns in the command, and to aid in instructing the Volunteer Artillery in time of emergency. It has, however, been so retrenched during recent years that its numbers are now reduced below the *personnel* of a gun detachment, and the men, exclusive of the district gunners, have chiefly been employed as storemen, a large proportion of their time being taken up by work in the Ordnance Store branch. Under such conditions, I venture to state that the colony is paying dearly for the services thus rendered. If, however, the strength be again raised, even to the *personnel* of two gun detachments, whereby the men can be trained as efficient gunners, it will be better worth the increased amount which will have to be voted for it.

The men are at present under the charge of the Armament Artificer, but the instructor, a field-artilleryman, from the School of Gunnery, who has been applied for, is shortly expected to arrive, and with the increase of four men now provided for in the Estimates, better things may be hoped for during the coming year. It has been strongly recommended by the Defence Committee, that the Corps should be increased to 22 gunners, and I emphatically endorse this recommendation, but would suggest, in view of other urgent requirements, that the increase be gradual, and that five more men be provided for on the military vote for next year.

The conduct of the men is very good, and they are now placed, for discipline and interior economy, under the Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Lieut.-Colonel Wallack.

One of the non-commissioned officers of the Corps should most certainly be sent this year to the School of Gunnery at Sydney, for the usual six-months' course of instruction. This school is doing good for the artillery of the other colonies, as well as that of New South Wales; and the course is such a good one, that no opportunity should be lost on the part of the Permanent Force of this colony to benefit by it.

Volunteer Artillery Corps.

Launceston Artillery.—This Corps numbers 88, and maintains its former good standard of efficiency, both as regards officers and men. The men are carefully drilled and instructed, but their technical knowledge will be more up-to-date after the advent of the new instructor, who will be especially useful in assisting to carry out the long-postponed part-organisation of this Corps into field artillery. This has always been the *rôle* proposed and approved of for the Launceston Artillery, and since I took over command, both the officers and men have been very anxious to see it carried out. As there are only two guns that can be horsed, when the new instructor arrives I propose to transfer the two 12-pounders in the South, which will make the battery unit large enough to be worth organising as field artillery. The Officer Commanding has been instructed to obtain the services of the horses required for the four guns, which it is proposed to hire in the same manner as is done in the Victorian Field Artillery.

Camp.—The Corps went under canvas for a four days' training, from the 6th to the 9th November, at Low Head. The 40-pr. B.L. guns and the 7-pr. jointed guns were taken to camp, and the annual practice carried on there. Some excellent shooting was done with the 7-pounder

shrapnel shell at "head-and-shoulder" targets, arranged as a company of infantry advancing in column to attack, at a range of 1400 yards; the guns being taken up by the men to the summit of a rocky eminence, selected as the firing-point. I may mention that these guns are furnished with a mule equipment, which I have used at former camps with horses, but there is now no money available for such a useful purpose as this.

The conduct and discipline of the men was good at camp.

Care of Harness.—Better accommodation is much required for the harness on charge for the field guns. It is now stowed away in the drill-shed with the six guns belonging to the station, taking up valuable space required for drill on wet nights, and covered with dust when the men are at exercise.

Every encouragement should be given to the Corps for its organisation as field artillery. This is the only colony in the Australian group without this absolutely necessary arm, the want of which may some day lead to serious results.

Southern Tasmanian Artillery.

This corps, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Evans, is smart, well drilled, and under excellent discipline. The non coms. are up in their work, and the men turn out well at my inspections. It is, however, very much below its establishment, and under the present conditions of service, probably always will be. The class of men in the towns who offer themselves for service in the Defence Force do not appear to like the hard work entailed by heavy gun drill, and in the Southern Artillery dislike the monotony of so much night work in the drill-yard, or at the old-type guns in the Queen's Battery.

If sufficient money were voted for payment for 18 afternoon drills throughout the year, at the batteries on the Derwent, and transport to and from them, I think the work would be more popular, and the men could have an opportunity of becoming more highly trained. In addition to this sum would be the cost of a shorter training than the present at the end of the year, at which the annual practice would be carried out.

The Commanding Officer advises that sufficient funds should be granted for the men to earn £6 per annum, and I concur in thinking that were such the case the ranks of the Corps would be filled up. This has already been recommended by the local Defence committee, but has not met with approval.

The strength of the Corps is now only 75 of all ranks, which is a mere nucleus, as at least 150 men are required to man the two most important batteries on the River.

The annual training took place under Lieut.-Colonel Evans at the end of the year, the work being carried out chiefly on Saturday afternoons, supplemented by night drills. At the conclusion the annual practice was carried on, and some good shooting was made, particularly from the 7-inch R.M.L. and 6-pr. quick-firing guns. The vote for ammunition, though increased last year, with further additions for the present, is still not enough to cover the cost of ammunition for the heavier guns, the weapons with which the men are required to be most efficient. Last year it was possible to fire only four rounds from the 6-inch B.L. guns, and none from the 8-inch guns. In view of these circumstances at least £100 should be granted annually for ammunition for this Corps.

The officers are zealous and proficient in their work, but are three below the establishment, which is a serious matter, in view of the important role this Corps has to play. The Commanding Officer informs me that the chief difficulty in obtaining officers is the cost of the uniform. The same difficulty applies in Launceston, where the officers are still two below the establishment. If the officers in this colony, both Artillery and Infantry, were granted a small clothing allowance, as in the other colonies in Australia, there would be much less difficulty in filling up the commissioned ranks with desirable men.

Tasmanian Engineers.

General Remarks.—This corps now numbers 39 of all ranks, it has fallen away of late years, but it has increased somewhat during the last few months. Lieutenant Packer is now in provisional command of it and Major Henry in charge of the electrical instruction. To fulfil the rôle properly belonging to this corps, there should be an officer in charge of it who has passed through the Chatham course of Engineering and Submarine Mining. There is at present, not even a Royal Engineer Non-commissioned officer Instructor attached to the corps, which places it, so far as up-to-date work is concerned, at a very great disadvantage. The rank and file, are on the whole, an intelligent body of men, numbering among their ranks some who have considerable technical knowledge and ability.

Training.—A short training was carried out at the end of the year under the instruction of Major Henry. The practical part of the Submarine Mining work being supervised by Lieut. A. C. Parker. The training is a paid one, as in the artillery, but the money allowed was insufficient, except for the time necessary to prepare the requisite mines for elementary instruction in Submarine Mining, at One Tree Point.

Field Engineering Section.—In view of the unsatisfactory state of the Submarine Mining Plant, the only manner in which this corps can give a full equivalent for the money expended on

it, is to turn as large a section as possible into field engineers. For this purpose at least two carts, fitted for field telegraphy and engineering respectively, are required, and I strongly urge that I may be now allowed to procure them for the use of the proposed section, at the annual training and Camp. They could be locally made on the pattern used in Victoria. When this is accomplished, part of the corps can take its place as a useful unit in the field force required for defence of the colony. A model-room, without which proper instruction cannot be given, is *urgently* required. A good site exists in the corner of the drill-yard. I recommend an expenditure of £180 for this purpose.

Tasmanian Infantry Regiment.

The Infantry forces of the Colony have been recently organised into one regiment, consisting of three battalions, and are under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Wallack, whose report is annexed.

General.—In the defence scheme of the Colony, these three battalions have a certain *rôle* allotted to them, for which I am endeavouring, with the limited means at my disposal, to make them as efficient as possible. The 1st and 2nd Battalions are largely composed of country companies, and the 3rd Battalion entirely so. The country companies, owing to the sparse population of the colony, are split up into small detachments, scattered over the territorial districts allotted to each battalion. These detachments have to be instructed at night, and separately so, as it is impossible for them to resort to the head-quarters of their companies. Under these circumstances you will understand that the instruction of such scattered units is a difficult task, and requires a large staff of instructors if the Infantry is to be made in any way efficient. But what are the circumstances of the case? On the mainland, the rule is to allot one paid instructor to every 100 or 150 men. Here, in this colony, there are 1700 men, with three instructors, who are supposed to do a large amount of instruction at Head Quarters in addition to office work, as well as instruct the aforesaid numerous units throughout the country. The third instructor, whom I procured in Sydney, has just arrived, and even with this increase in the staff, it will be quite impossible to efficiently instruct the men or properly look after the upkeep of the arms, which are gradually deteriorating for want of care, and many of which have been long over their time in wear. In order to improve matters in the North, however, I purpose asking you to sanction the appointment of a district Adjutant, to visit the country companies and supervise the instruction, more especially that of the officers. This appointment will go far towards compensating for the paucity of instructors in that part of the Island, and the want of paid Adjutants, as in the other Colonies.

Classes of Instruction.—As a means of compensation for the want of instruction in the country at company stations, a class of instruction at Hobart was instituted during my former administration, for officers and non-commissioned officers. At this class, averaging three weeks in duration, and which is under the officer commanding the Infantry, the candidates are put through a rigid course of company drill, commencing at the A B C of the work, and attend a course of lectures on necessary subjects given by the officer commanding the Infantry and myself. At the termination of the course the officers and non-commissioned officers have to pass an examination. The good work done at this short course cannot be overestimated, for all the successful candidates are returned to the country capable of drilling their detachments, and can always be recognised by their smartness at camps and ceremonial parades. Unfortunately this course of instruction has fallen through of late years through the want of funds, and the result has been a lowering in the standard of efficiency in the country companies.

Notwithstanding all drawbacks there has been a manifest improvement during the last twelve months in the efficiency of the Infantry, the number of efficient having increased from 1100 to over 1200. The strength of the country companies has also materially increased, and had there been funds available for clothing the regiment might have been considerably augmented recently.

Free Ammunition.—I may state here that a great impetus would be given to the Infantry by the issue of free ammunition at a given number of rounds per man, as is done in Victoria and New South Wales. It would, as a matter of course, tend to raise the standard of efficiency in shooting, which is the *ultimate aim* to be arrived at. At present the men have to purchase the whole of their ammunition for private practice; the consequence being that there is much less shooting than there would be if they were given a small amount of free ammunition. This is all the more necessary, as the number of rounds fired at the musketry course, viz., 42, is most insufficient; but this curtailment has to be made, owing to want of funds. Commanding officers are allowed 100 rounds per man in Victoria; and, as a commencement of the privilege in this Colony, I would recommend that 25 rounds be granted.

Want of Officers.—The city companies are below the establishment in officers. Many eligible young men refrain from coming forward on account of the expense of the uniform, as is

the case in the artillery ; the want of officers, particularly of the rank of captain, being very seriously felt in the Infantry. The commissioned ranks are the weak points in the Force, as they are in all the volunteer services, for, in the absence of military educational institutions, it is not possible to train officers to that standard which is necessary to enable them to render efficient service in time of emergency. A fair proportion of the officers in the country companies have attended the annual classes of instruction, and have benefitted considerably by it.

Battalions.—I have to refer to the Report of the Officer Commanding Infantry for remarks in detail concerning the three battalions of the regiment. The unsatisfactory state of the Head Quarter companies of the first battalion in the Capital of the Island, which should be the *élite* of the force, is much to be regretted. The Commanding Officer is most zealous, and is not unpopular, and I therefore incline to the belief that the ranks are largely composed of the wrong stamp of men, and that temporary disbandment and a re-enrolment of selected men from the present ranks would be the best thing for the battalion. This battalion has a most important *rolé* allotted for it in the defence scheme, and the paucity of the instructional staff is telling against its efficiency.

The 2nd Battalion is kept up to a better strength in Launceston by its able Commanding Officer, and there is a keener spirit in the ranks than in Hobart. The Adjutant is a very capable officer, and a very desirable addition has been made to the commissioned ranks in the person of Captain Cameron, late 9th Lancers.

The organisation of the 3rd Battalion for the defence of the North Coast is occupying my earnest attention, and when complete, with its resident instructor and volunteer staff, I expect it to rank with the two older battalions.

The Cadets in the North have furnished good officers and men for the 2nd Battalion, and have proved a great benefit. The newly-formed Hobart Cadet Company has brought out some excellent young officers, who will shortly be eligible for commissions.

Army Medical Corps.

No properly organised medical service has hitherto existed in our force. This is a most important department, which, of course, cannot be done without. After having therefore gone into the question thoroughly with Colonel Williams, the principal Medical Officer of the New South Wales forces, I have applied to you for the authority to form a section of a Bearer Company for the field force in the north, the same to be placed under the control of Captain Holmes, A.M.S. During the recent war scare, the gravity of this want of any medical organisation was brought very forcibly before me, and, as the service is not one that can be trained to efficiency in a short time, I trust that I shall have your support in organising it in this Colony.

Mounted Infantry.

Money has been granted for starting this branch of the service, long required in Tasmania. In these days of long-range weapons and highly developed infantry tactics, necessitating active reconnaissance, no proper work can be done in the field without the use of this valuable mobile fighting unit. The Mounted Infantry rank very high in the other colonies as a fighting force, and I trust they will take the same position in Tasmania. I have decided to enrol the first small body on the North Coast, where the farmers are well-to-do, and have the horses necessary for the service. With your permission I have made arrangements for Sergt.-Major Goucher to be sent to Melbourne to be instructed in Mounted Infantry drill, in addition to the duties connected with the service of Maxim guns. He will, therefore, until the force is large enough to warrant the acquisition of a separate instructor, be available to drill the "Division" now provided for on the Estimates.

Tasmanian Rifle Association.

The Tasmanian Rifle Association continues to flourish under the energetic management of the Secretary, Lieut.-Colonel Davies, and does a great deal to encourage match-shooting, besides doing good, as a social gathering, in bringing riflemen together from different parts of the Island. It is true that our Rifle Association is more of a military body than those of New South Wales and New Zealand, but I hold, with the Commandants of New South Wales and New Zealand, that these Associations do not sufficiently advance the cause of purely military shooting, *i. e.*, shooting with the rifle as issued under service conditions, and that the money (it would have to be a larger grant, however) would be better spent in giving prizes for military matches, to be shot for at smaller meetings (confined to battalions, for example), and held at different centres throughout the Island. By these remarks I do not infer that good individual marksmen are not brought to the front through the exertions of our Association.

During the past year great improvements have been made at the Sandy Bay Rifle Range.

The Launceston Range has been placed under a board of local officers, in order that its drainage and improvement may be better looked after.

On the issue of the new rifle, and for the holding of the Intercolonial Rifle Meeting at Hobart next year, it will be necessary to substitute canvas targets for the present iron ones. They will have to be mounted in an open subway, and worked on a balance principle. This will, I venture to say, cost a considerable sum of money, which will have to be voted very shortly.

Staff.—The staff consists at present, of Lieut.-Colonel Wallack, Commanding the Infantry and acting as Assistant Adjutant-General at Head Quarters; Lieut.-Colonel Reid, doing the duties of Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, and having charge of the maps, plans, and documents in the Military Intelligence Office, and whose services, which are moreover given gratuitously, are of great help to me; Captain Reynolds, who has been appointed as a range officer to assist the Officer Commanding Infantry, at the Hobart rifle range, in matters of discipline and executive; Captain Perceval, who has been appointed Adjutant for the northern forces without pay. This officer's duties, as I have mentioned above, are to supplement the instructor's work in the north, owing to the numerous detachments forming the 2nd and 3rd Battalions; Lieut. Steward, provisional lieutenant in the Infantry, who has been appointed to act as my field aide-de-camp. Colonel Wallack works with untiring energy, and his services as Chief of the Staff are invaluable to me, but owing to the extent of his scattered command, which is, numerically, one of the largest in the colonies, he has frequently to be absent from Head Quarters, when his place is taken by Lieut.-Colonel Reid.

Conclusion.—This being a first report on appointment, I have made it as exhaustive as possible, and have given a plain statement of the facts of the case, satisfactory and the reverse, in connection with the Defence Force of the colony. Here and there I have shown where a larger expenditure is positively necessary, and I trust I shall not be deemed importunate in again insisting that the Defence Force of this colony numbering as it now does 1945 men, cannot be worked efficiently without a larger expenditure than has been granted of late years. In justification of this assertion I call your attention to the following facts:—The vote for the Defence Force last year was £6689; this includes salaries of Staff, pay of Permanent Artillery, upkeep of armament and matériel, expenses of the Ordnance Store Department—a practically distinct branch—all contingent expenses connected with the instruction, economy, and clothing of the Force; the salary of the Commandant and the Officer Commanding Infantry not amounting in the aggregate to that of the Staff Officer of the Victorian Artillery. The abovementioned sum is little more than the cost of one *branch* of the Victorian Service, the votes in 1897 for the Rangers (Country Rifles) and the Mounted Infantry being £6005 and £6014 respectively.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. V. LEGGE,
Colonel Commanding Tasmanian Forces.

*Head Quarters, Tasmanian Infantry Regiment,
Hobart, 1st January, 1899.*

*From the Officer Commanding the Tasmanian Infantry Regiment,
To the Commandant.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report on the Tasmanian Infantry Regiment for the year ending 31st December, 1898, viz.—

Instructors.—During the year Sergeants-Major Costello and Clapshaw were appointed to the staff, making the number of instructors up to three, *i.e.*, one for each Battalion. As, however, Sergeant-Major Clapshaw did not join until December, the work for the year had to be carried on with only two.

In my Report, dated 31st December, 1897, I urged that at least four instructors should be appointed, but only half this number has been granted.

The Infantry Forces of the Colony now number between seventeen and eighteen hundred of all ranks, and it is simply impossible to bring this large body of men up to anything like a high state of efficiency with such a small instructional staff, and, in addition, the arms, accoutrements, and all Government property are most seriously deteriorating through want of proper supervision and attention, which can alone be given by a qualified instructor. In the other colonies such a Force would have at least twelve instructors, as well as a permanent adjutant for each battalion. This shows the enormous disadvantages the Infantry of this Colony are working under.

I desire also to bring to notice that the only clerical assistance I receive is from the Sergeant-Major of the 1st Battalion, but as he has frequently to be absent visiting the country detachments, the work is thrown on my own shoulders.

The office work was so heavy during the last year that I was unable to carry out the inspection of several of the outlying companies.

Designation of Corps, &c.—In December Her Majesty the Queen's Assent was received to alter the designation of the various branches of the Infantry, which comprised the Tasmanian Rifle Regiment, Launceston Rifle Regiment, and the Auxiliary Force, to that of the Tasmanian Infantry Regiment.

Strength and Efficients.—I am glad to be able to report an increase in the strength of the Regiment and of the number who have classed as efficients, as compared with the previous year, viz.—

	1897.	1898.
Strength	1391	1718
Efficients	1105	1209

Battalions.—I will now deal with the three Battalions in detail, viz.—

1st Battalion—Head Quarters, Hobart.—The two Head-quarter companies, late Tasmanian Rifle Regiment, are still in an unsatisfactory state, under their strength, and seem unable to get the right class of recruit. Unless these companies show a decided improvement during the first six months of the present year, I consider they should be disbanded and others raised in their place.

Two district companies have been formed, with most satisfactory results; one at Sandy Bay, the other in Central Hobart. Detachments have also been formed at Forcett and Richmond in connection with the Clarence company.

Major Watchorn is in command of the Battalion, and has worked well during the year, and been able to visit some of his country companies. The strength of the Battalion is 680 of all ranks, of which 481 classed as efficient.

Musketry.—404 men were put through the annual musketry course, the figure of merit for the trained men being 110 and for the recruits, 56.

2nd Battalion—Head Quarters, Launceston.—The two head-quarter companies (late L.R.R.) are greatly improved, both in numbers and in smartness. I regret, though, that up to the present it has been found impossible to raise a district company at Invermay. A company has been formed at Evandale, and promises to be a most efficient one. It has been placed under the command of Captain Cyril Cameron, late 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers. A detachment has also been formed at Tunbridge and attached to the Midland company.

Major and Brevet-Lieut.-Colonel W. Martin is still in command, and is as zealous as ever in the performance of his duties.

The strength of the Battalion is 650 of all ranks; 475 class as efficient.

Musketry.—465 men fired the annual course, the figure of merit for trained men being 103, and 53 for the recruits.

3rd Battalion—Head Quarters, Ulverstone.—This Battalion is still in the process of formation, and will, I hope, before long be up to the strength of the other two. It has been formed out of the East Devon, Mersey, the two West Devon, and the Wellington companies. The Battalion has made distinct progress during the year, and as soon as the instructor is able to take up his residence on the Coast the battalion organisation will be completed.

Major W. G. Brown is in command, is giving a great deal of time to the work, and takes great interest in it.

The strength is 388 of all ranks, 253 making themselves efficient for the year.

Musketry.—266 men fired the annual course, the figure of merit for the trained men being 99 and for the recruits, 55.

Cadets.—The Cadets in Hobart and Launceston have done good work during the year, and are supplying recruits for the regiment, thus carrying out the object for which they were raised.

In conclusion, I again most strongly urge the necessity of placing every year a sufficient sum on the Estimates for keeping the men properly clothed ; and I must also again bring to notice that a large number of the men are not provided with great coats, and that even those that are on issue are mostly worn out. It is impossible to expect men to attend camp, or even ordinary drills during the winter months, unless they have them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Lt.-Colonel,*
Commanding Infantry.

APPENDICES.

MEMORANDUM from the Officer commanding the Southern Tasmanian Artillery.

IN reference to your memorandum requesting me to inform you what, in my opinion, are the causes which militate against the increase of the Corps under my command, I have the honour to state that in the first place I think that if the officer commanding had any inducements to hold out to men for them to join, the strength of the Corps might be increased; if each man on joining knew that during each year of his service he could earn £6 by attending certain *daylight parades*, so many each quarter, no doubt it would be the means of the Corps getting many recruits, and thus place them on a footing with the members of the Defence Forces in the other Colonies, which are partially paid forces. At present the men of the Corps do a great deal of hard work and get very little for it, and this hard work prevents, or I may say frightens, many men from joining, but if these men know they could earn a small sum of money they would be induced to join. I beg to state that if it is desirable to have a reliable, efficient force of artillerymen, it must be obtained by a payment of £6 to each man yearly.

Daylight Parades.

The duties of artillerymen are so varied and require so much attention that they must be treated in quite a different manner from infantrymen.

T. M. EVANS, *Lieut.-Col. (Brevet)*

The Commandant, Barracks.

A.

STATE of the Tasmanian Defence Force on 31st December, 1898.

Corps.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Surgeons.	Pay and Quarter Masters.	Chaplains.	Warrant Officers.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers.	Band.	Rank and File.	Total of all Ranks.	Cadets.	
														Officers.	Cadets.
General Staff.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	6		
Volunteer Staff.....	2	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	7		
Tasmanian Permanent Artillery.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10		
Permanent Torpedo and Artificers.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1		
Launceston Artillery.....	2	1	1	1	...	...	1	4	4	6	...	64	84	...	4
Southern Tasmanian Artillery.....	1	2	2	1	1	...	...	...	7	2	...	59	75		
Tasmanian Engineers.....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	...	31	39		
1st Battalion Tasmanian Infantry Regiment	1	5	19	1	...	1	...	3	44	11	...	563	648		
2nd " " " "	2	9	13	4	2	1	1	5	38	20	57	500	652	...	40
3rd " " " "	1	4	8	1	...	1	...	2	22	8	...	343	390		
Head Quarters Band.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	30	...	33		
Southern Tasmanian Cadet Corps.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	183
	11	22	46	8	4	4	7	17	122	47	87	1570	1945	7	227

B.

FIGURE of Merit of Trained Men of the Tasmanian Infantry Regiment for the Musketry Course ending 31st December, 1898.

Battalion.	No. of Men Fired.	Weapon.	No. of Rounds per Man.	Total Points.	Figure of Merit.	Classification.			
						Marksmen.	First Class Shots.	Second Class Shots.	Third Class Shots.
1st Battalion	163	M.-H. R.	42	17,982	110	91	30	29	13
2nd "	183	M.-H. R.	42	18,968	103	79	38	39	27
3rd "	93	M.-H. R.	42	9267	99	87	16	23	17

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Commanding Infantry Regiment,

C.

FIGURE of Merit of Recruits of the Tasmanian Infantry Regiment for the Musketry Course ending 31st December, 1898.

Battalion.	No. of Men fired.	Weapon.	No. of Rounds fired per Man.	Total Points.	Figure of Merit.	Classification.	
						First Class Shots.	Recruits in Musketry Sense.
1st Battalion	241	M.-H. R.	28	13,622	56	98	143
2nd Battalion	282	M.-H. R.	28	14,985	53	96	186
3rd Battalion	173	M.-H. R.	28	9626	55	64	109

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Commanding Infantry Regiment,

D.

EFFICIENCY Return of the Tasmanian Defence Forces for the Year ending December 31st, 1898.

Corps.	Number of Efficient.
Launceston Artillery	84
Southern Tasmanian Artillery	67
Tasmanian Engineers	29
1st Battalion Infantry Regiment	481
2nd Battalion Infantry Regiment	475
3rd Battalion Infantry Regiment	263
Grand Total	1389

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Acting A.A.G.

E.
INFANTRY FORCE.

STATE on December 31st, 1898, showing Number of Efficient, and Result of Musketry Course.

Battalion.	Company.	Detachment.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Surgeons.	Staff Sergeants.	Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers.	Rank and File.	TOTAL.	No. of Efficient.	No. of Extra Efficient.	No. of Trained Men fired.	Figure of Merit.	No. of Recruits fired.	Figure of Merit.	Best Shot in the Detachment or Company, with number of Points gained.	Remarks.	
1st Battalion	A and B	1	2	4	1	3	5	7	2	79	104	78	31	38	91	47	32	Private A. Blore 151	Did not go through musketry course; formed too late.	
	C .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	42	43	35	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Sandy Bay .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	1	30	35	21	...	...	...	25	64	Private Horton 99
	Channel	Little Oyster Cove .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	20	23	23	9	14	128	9	60	Col.-Sergt. F. G. Smith... 163
			Margate .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	22	23	23	...	16	133	7	56	Cpl. Meredith 161
	South Channel.	Dover .....	...	1	1	...	...	1	2	1	23	29	27	18	13	118	13	65	Private J. Owens 143
	Clarence	Bellerive .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	4	2	29	37	20	12	2	129	21	67	Col.-Sergt. Paul 132
			Sorell .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	24	25	10	1	...	...	12	69	Private A. Parker 92
			Richmond .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	21	24	18	...	...	...	...	...
	Derwent	Brighton .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	23	25	23	10	15	117	8	80	Private W. P. Johnson ... 162
			Kempton	2	1	2	...	39	44	16	10	22	118	10	75		Private F. Jhonson 151
			Spring Hill	1	1	1	18	21	10	8	21	67		Lieut. W. M. Bisdee 100
	Clarence	Forcett .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	24	26	12	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Glenorchy.....	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	62	66	53	...	...	...	14	46	Private R. Howell 77
	Huon	Geeveston .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	37	42	29	10	13	88	20	51	Cpl. Riley 122
Huonville .....			...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	16	18	13	3	8	121	5	63	Private W. Ball 155
Zeehan .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	4	1	54	62	37	15	22	104	29	57	Private Whitton 155	
Band	Hd. Quarters .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	30	33	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1st BATT. TOTAL			1	5	19	1	4	13	33	11	593	680	481	128	163	...	241	...	...
2nd Battalion	A .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	98	36	40	Private J. Frost 131	
	B .....	...	2	5	4	1	4	3	6	9	99	133	126	62	13	116	26	39	Sergt.-Major M'Lennon . 150	
	Band .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	57	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(No. 60.)

"	Cornwall.....	Fingal	1	...	...	1	1	...	16	19	12	...	8	114	4	53	Capt. Whitham.....	149
		St. Mary's.....	...	1	...	...	1	...	8	10	10	4	8	81	2	46	Private F. Perfer.....	122
		Avoca .....	...	...	...	2	...	17	19	11	7	4	94	7	68	Cpl. H. Stanley	122	
"	Dorset.....	Scottsdale.....	1	...	1	1	2	1	31	37	19	3	17	105	13	49	Private Holmes.....	154		
"	Esk.....	Longford	1	...	1	...	2	1	28	33	28	...	7	120	22	57	Private Drew	158		
		Cressy .....	...	1	...	...	1	...	29	31	23	...	13	94	17	44	Sergt. Lee	131
		Carrick .....	...	...	...	1	...	13	14	9	5	5	88	5	47	Col.-Sergt. Dinien	96	
"	Evandale .....	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	36	41	30	...	1	112	31	44	Col.-Sergt. McLean.....	112	
"	Meander.....	Deloraine	1	1	...	1	2	1	36	42	41	...	12	106	28	47	Col.-Sergt. Rock	154		
		Westbury .....	...	1	...	...	1	1	13	16	15	1	7	98	8	59	Lieut. Drew.....	139
		Chudleigh .....	...	...	...	1	1	18	20	18	...	16	106	2	77	Private L. Horne	147	
"	Midland.....	Campbell Town .....	...	1	1	...	1	1	36	40	34	19	23	113	12	69	Private W. Branagan	154	
		Ross	1	...	...	1	1	1	33	37	27	12	17	108	13	68	Cpl. Richards	150
		Tunbridge .....	...	...	...	1	1	25	27	21	11	...	...	26	72	Private Henri.....	95	
"	Tamar.....	Lefroy	1	...	...	2	1	17	21	12	3	2	129	10	65	Capt. Anderson	142	
		George Town .....	...	1	...	1	...	1	9	12	11	...	4	62	7	42	Lieut. Huxtable.....	88	
		Beaconsfield .....	...	1	...	1	1	36	39	28	1	15	92	13	70	Private T. Mankerris	130		
		2ND BATT. TOTAL	2	11	13	3	6	10	28	20	557	650	475	128	183	...	282	...		
3rd Battalion	West Devon	Ulverstone	1	...	1	...	2	1	3	3	55	66	52	13	13	97	42	51	Col.-Sergt. Lynch	146
		Forth .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	18	19	8	1	1	118	8	61	Sergt. W. Neville.....	110
		Penguin	1	...	...	...	2	1	23	27	26	14	12	96	14	50	Sergt. W. Stott	143
		Castra	1	1	...	1	...	30	34	22	
		Sulphur Creek.....	...	1	...	1	1	12	15	14	4	5	80	9	48	Cpl. H. Barnes	96			
		North Motton .....	...	1	...	...	1	...	15	17	6	2	...	...	10	44	Lieut. A. A. Sale.....	94
"	East Devon.....	Sheffield	1	1	...	1	3	1	59	66	59	7	26	109	34	64	Capt. Hope	162		
"	Mersey	Devonport.....	1	...	...	1	1	1	42	46	15	8	...	...	21	59	Private T. Jhonson.....	85
		Northdown .....	...	1	...	1	...	...	16	18	8	2	8	81	7	39	Private G. Brown	130
		Latrobe .....	...	1	...	...	2	...	28	31	27	4	13	115	15	59	Sergt. Paton	166
"	Wellington ..	Somerset .....	...	...	...	1	1	19	21	4	...	4	138	5	58	Private J. Tong	176	
		Table Cape .....	...	1	...	...	1	...	26	28	12	1	11	69	8	58	Private W. Porter	121
		3RD BATT. TOTAL	1	4	8	...	2	5	17	8	343	388	253	56	93	...	173	...		
Head Qr. staff	...	Hobart, &c.	1	1	...	3	1		

Musketry returns not received.

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ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Lieut.-Colonel, Commanding Infantry.*

JOHN VAIL,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.

(No. 60.)