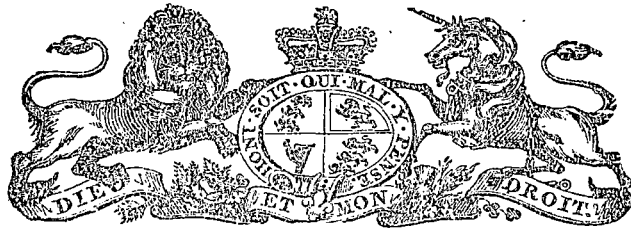


(No. 47.)



1897.

SESSION II.

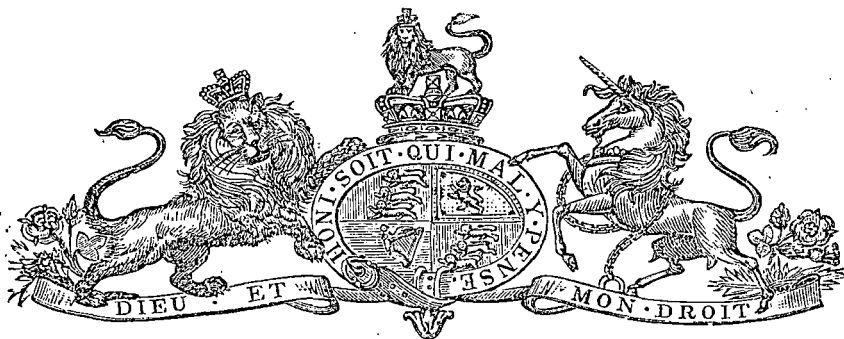
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE:

REPORT BY THE COMMANDANT.

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

Cost of printing—£4 4s.



Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 17th August, 1897.

From the Commandant to the Hon. the Chief Secretary.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Reports of Captain Parker, R.N., on the Batteries and Torpedo Corps, and of Lieut.-Colonel Wallack, on the Auxiliary Force, to the 31st December, 1896.

As I only received command on the 28th October, 1896, I cannot venture to give much information; but as far as my inspections went, I was more than satisfied with the material, for the physique of the whole Force was very satisfactory, and the country is to be, in my opinion, congratulated in having such stalwart sons.

The Southern Tasmanian Artillery are a very good body of men, very well handled, a credit to their Commander and to their officers, but from their scant numbers are practically useless for manning the Forts.

In the Launceston Artillery I also found an excellent body of men, a credit to their Commander and officers. They are, in my opinion, in sufficient numbers for the purpose they are required.

The Torpedo Corps is unusually fortunate in having two officers with such knowledge of electricity as Captain Henry and Lieut. Parker. The men appear well drilled and efficient.

The Tasmanian Rifle Regiment appears to me to be suffering from neglect. The men are good enough, intelligent and well drilled, their officers capable and painstaking, but their dress is disgraceful. This is to be rectified,—the sooner the better.

I found the Launceston Rifle Regiment a well-drilled body of men, with very capable officers. They were dressed in kharkee cloth, which in the dim gaslight did not show up so badly as scarlet cloth. Their dress was bad enough, however.

I wish to bear testimony to the excellent Cadet Corps in Launceston. They are very smart, excellently drilled, and, if well looked after, these corps do a great deal of good. Their officers take great interest in these lads, and devote considerable time to their instruction; the result is much to the credit of both parties.

With regard to the Auxiliary Force, the country is, in my opinion, to be congratulated in having such a body of men at its disposal should it ever be in danger. At the Deloraine Camp I found the men were, as to conduct, unexceptional, obedient to orders, above the average as regards physique, and certainly a credit to Tasmania.

The officers, too, are mostly a fine body of men, earnest and painstaking. Camps are invaluable to them, as it is only then that they have the opportunity of commanding their companies as a part of a comparatively large Force.

In conclusion, I wish to bring to your notice the zeal, energy, and tact displayed by Captain Parker, R.N., and Colonel Wallack, and I am of opinion the Government is fortunate in having such capable officers holding commands in the Forces of the Colony.

I enclose the usual Efficiency and Musketry Returns. The former shows an increase of 12k efficients on 1895. There is also an improvement in the shooting of the various corps.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. COX, *Colonel, Commandant.*

The Barracks, Hobart, 19th March, 1897.

From the Commandant of Batteries to the Commandant.

SIR,

IN accordance with your direction, I beg to submit to you the following Report as to the Corps set under my command during 1896:—

Tasmanian Permanent Artillery.

Strength on 31st December, 8 of all ranks. One gunner was discharged on 10th February by order of the Hon. the Premier, to make a saving to provide for the cost of reducing the price of ammunition to the Defence Force generally. One gunner was taken on to the general staff on 17th December as orderly-room sergeant; also, by the removal of the powder hulks up the river, the services of the hulk-keeper, who (if wanted) worked with the Permanent Artillery, are practically lost. This reduces the strength of gunners 33 per cent. below the *minimum* number that (without any other duties) is allowed by the Imperial Regulations for three batteries, a fact which I have already felt it my duty to call your attention to.

Launceston Artillery.

Strength on 31st December, 74 of all ranks. Between 6th and 9th November the annual training of this corps was carried out at Low Heads under Major Hon. Geo. Collins, L.A., an advanced party having been sent down on 2nd under Sergeant-Major Martini, L.A. The Launceston Church Grammar School Cadets, who are now attached to this corps, joined on 7th November under a N.C. officer of artillery. The attendance was 4 officers, 13 N.C. officers, 49 artillery-men, and 14 cadets; 80 in all.

The Infantry Attack practice was carried out very satisfactorily on Saturday, 7th. On Sunday, 8th, after an inspection by me, a Church Parade was held, the Rev. C. G. Wilkinson, M.A., officiating. On Monday, 9th, 40 rounds of common and shrapnel shell were fired from the 12-pr. B.L. and 2.5in. R.M.L. guns. The range was 2700 yards, and capital practice was made.

There were no accidents and no sickness. I was present during the Camp, and gave six monthly drills during the year.

Southern Tasmanian Artillery.

Strength on 31st December, 60 of all ranks. The annual training of this Corps was carried out by Major Evans, S.T.A., on five Saturday afternoons in October and November, and took place at the Alexandra and Bluff Batteries alternately. Practice took place from the Bluff Battery on 14th November, when 39 rounds were fired from the 8-inch M.L.R., 80-pr. M.L.R., and 6-pr. Q.F., as well as 250 rounds from the 5-barrelled Nordenfeldt. On 28th November, four common shell were fired from the 5-inch B.L.A.P. gun at Alexandra Battery, and 250 rounds from the 5-barrelled Nordenfeldt. Major Evans reports "that he cannot speak too highly of the good these daylight drills do the officers and men, and he regrets that the small amount of money placed at his disposal prevented any longer period for drill," opinions in which I concur.

I attended all the afternoon drills, and the Commandant and I were present at both firing practices.

Tasmanian Torpedo Corps.

Strength on 31st December, 59 of all ranks. An Infantry Camp was held by this Corps at Easter, from 3rd to 6th April, at the Nubeena Quarantine Station. The men, to the number of 20, with 3 officers and the Instructor, marched from Hobart on 3rd, with the wagons containing their camp equipment. On arriving at Nubeena they cleared the ground and pitched their camp. On 4th they were exercised at light infantry and skirmishing drill. On the forenoon of 5th they were drilled in striking tents and pitching them, and, it being Easter Sunday, leave was given in the afternoon. On Monday, 6th, there was a Parade and Inspection by me in the presence of the Honourable the Attorney-General. The tents were then struck and the Corps marched home, delivering their camp equipage, &c. at the Military Stores by 6 p.m.

Torpedo Boat.

Runs were taken with this boat under my command on 9th and 23rd January, and on the 5th and 15th February. The boat and her torpedoes are in excellent condition and perfectly efficient. She was hauled up on the 12th March, when the ways were found to be defective, as has been duly reported. The boat cannot be launched again till these are repaired.

I annex the original Reports from Commanding Officers of Corps.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP R. H. PARKER, *Commander of Batteries.*

Auxiliary Force Office, Hobart, March 4th, 1897.

From the Officer Commanding Auxiliary Force to the Commandant.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that I took over the command of the Auxiliary Force on August 21st, 1896.

I found it in an unsatisfactory state, some of the detachments having practically ceased to exist, and the general efficiency not to be compared to what it was up to the end of 1894.

This falling off is through no want of zeal on the part of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, but is due to the following causes:—

1. The want of Instructors.
2. Camps of Exercise and Classes of Instruction being practically done away with.
3. Insufficient funds for clothing, prizes for shooting, and general maintenance.

Since I have been in command I have been re-organising and endeavouring to obtain recruits. So far I have met with most satisfactory results, and have formed new detachments at Kempton, Latrobe, Sulphur Creek, and Zeehan, which alone will give an increase of 150 of all ranks. Many fresh men are joining the old detachments, and, as the prospects for this year are so much brighter for the Force through Government having provided funds for camps, classes of instruction, and clothing, I have every reason to hope the numbers will soon be up to 1200.

During last year Camps were formed by the Launceston Rifle Regiment at Strathroy, and at Deloraine by the Auxiliaries, 75 being at the former, and 130 at the latter; 205 were also present at the Queen's Birthday Parade in May, at Hobart, and were provided with tent accommodation in the Barrack Reserve. On all three occasions the men paid for their own rations.

On October 31st I held a daylight parade at Deloraine, which was attended by the Honourable the Premier and yourself. One hundred and eighty of all ranks were present, many of whom left their homes between four and five o'clock in the morning, and did not get back before eleven at night, thus being over 17 hours under arms. The West Devon Company, under the command of Captain H. Brown, had 64 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men on parade. This Company always does good work, and is now 120 strong.

This shows the excellent spirit existing in the Force, and of which I cannot speak too highly. All ranks are anxious to make themselves efficient. True efficiency, however, cannot be obtained unless instructors are provided. In all other parts of the Empire Volunteer Corps have several, some one to each company. It is simply impossible to train the men without them. In my opinion each detachment should be visited at least once a month (more often, if possible) by an instructor, and either two or three times a year by myself. The classes of instruction for the officers and non-commissioned officers, without which they cannot be taught their duties, require the assistance of instructors. I strongly urge that two be at once appointed, and that as soon as the financial state of the Colony permits they be increased to four.

In a purely Volunteer Force such as I have the honour to command it is necessary to make it as attractive as possible to the men, and this can only be done by providing them with the proper means to learn their work as soldiers, to give them a fair amount of prize money to shoot for at the end of the Annual Musketry Course, to provide a sufficient sum for clothing, and to have the Annual Camp of Exercise. The latter is greatly looked forward to, and does more than anything else to keep the Corps together and to promote that feeling of *esprit de corps* without which a military body is useless.

The strength of the Force on December 31st, 1895, was 787, of which 517 were efficient; and on December 31st, 1896, 966, 627 of which were efficient.

The following officers joined during the year:—Captain A. Morrisby, Lieut. W. P. Lowther, Lieut. W. Brown, Lieut. C. Eaton-Brown, Lieut. C. Belcher, Lieut. E. O. Bisdee, Lieut. W. A. T. Davies, Quartermaster C. L. Hodgman, Surgeon-Lieut. F. Cole.

The resignations were:—Lieut. R. D. Twibell, Lieut. G. E. Hays, Lieut. J. B. Wardlaw.

In conclusion, I have the honour to mention that, in submitting the Estimates of the Force for 1898 for your consideration, I shall ask for an increase, not a large one, on the present expenditure, which will enable me to place the Auxiliaries in a really efficient state.

I attach the usual Return showing the result of the Musketry Course and the number of efficient for each detachment.

I have, &c.

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Major,*
Commanding Auxiliary Force.

A.

STATE of the Tasmanian Defence Force on December 31st, 1896.

Corps.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Pay and Quarter Masters.	Surgeons.	Warrant Officers.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters and Buglers.	Band.	Rank and File.	Total of all Ranks.	Remarks.	Cadets.
General Staff	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3		
Tasmanian Permanent Artillery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	7	8		
Ditto Torpedo & Artificer .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2		
Launceston Artillery	1	1	1	...	1	...	4	3	2	...	60	74		
Southern Tasmanian Artillery	1	1	3	1	1	...	...	4	2	...	47	60		
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps .....	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	50	59		
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment	1	3	2	...	1	...	3	12	3	...	67	92		
Launceston Rifle Regiment	1	1	3	2	1	...	4	8	5	31	48	104	...	64
Garrison Band .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	28	...	31		
Auxiliary Force	1	13	22	...	...	...	...	65	22	...	843	966		
GRAND TOTALS	7	20	33	3	4	3	15	97	36	59	1122	1399	...	64

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Lt.-Colonel,*
Acting Staff Officer.

B.

EFFICIENCY Return of the Tasmanian Defence Forces for the Year ending December 31st, 1896.

Corps.	Number of Efficient.	Cadets.	Total.
Launceston Artillery	73	—	73
Southern Tasmanian Artillery	56	—	56
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps	31	—	31
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment	81	—	81
Launceston Rifle Regiment	57	—	57
Launceston Band	19	—	19
Garrison Band	27	—	27
Auxiliary Force	627	—	627
Grand Total	971	—	971

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

C.

FIGURE of Merit of Recruits of the under-mentioned Corps of the Tasmanian Defence Forces for the Musketry Course ending 31st December, 1896.

Corps.	No. of Men fired.	Weapon.	No. of Rounds fired per Man.	Total Points.	Figure of Merit.	Classification.	
						First Class Shots.	Recruits in Musketry Sense.
Launceston Artillery	21	M.-H. R.	28	1233	58.71	7	14
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps	7	M.-H. R.	28	438	62.57	3	4
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment	43	M.-H. R.	28	2127	49.46	10	33
Launceston Rifle Regiment	61	M.-H. R.	28	2431	39.85	8	53
Auxiliary Force	309	M.-H. R.	28	16,903	54.70	104	205
Hobart Police	12	M.-H. R.	28	510	42.50	2	10
	453					134	319

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

D.

FIGURE of Merit of Trained Men of the under-mentioned Corps of the Tasmanian Defence Forces for the Musketry Course ending December 31st, 1896.

Corps.	No. of Men Fired.	Weapon.	No. of Rounds fired per Man.	Total Points.	Figure of Merit.	Classification.			
						Marksmen.	First Class Shots.	Second Class Shots.	Third Class Shots.
Launceston Artillery	27	M.-H. R.	42	3152	116·74	17	4	6	—
Southern Tasmanian Artillery...	34	M.-H. C.	36	1906	56·06	5	3	4	22
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps	21	M.-H. R.	42	1922	91·52	7	4	4	6
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment	30	M.-H. R.	42	1597	53·23	17	4	4	5
Launceston Rifle Regiment.....	19	M.-H. R.	42	1938	102·00	8	3	7	1
Auxiliary Force	310	M.-H. R.	42	29,869	96·35	119	59	92	40
Hobart Police	22	M.-H. R.	42	1981	90·04	6	3	6	7
Launceston Police.....	24	M.-H. R.	42	2507	104·46	11	4	8	1
	487					190	84	131	82

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

E.

AUXILIARY FORCE.

STATE on December 31st, 1896, showing Number of Efficient, and Result of Musketry Course.

Company.	Detachment.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Sergeants.	Buglers.	Rank and File.	TOTAL.	No. of Efficient.	No. of Trained Men Fired.	Figure of Merit.	No. of Recruits Fired.	Figure of Merit.	Best Shot in the Detachment, with No. of Points gained.	Remarks.
Dorset.....	Scottsdale	1	1	4	1	31	38	24	14	104.50	12	34.66	Private H. B. Holmes points 130	Target registers lost : figure of merit cannot be shown. Only formed at end of the year.
Mersey	Devonport.....	...	1	...	1	1	25	28	24	...	...	...	...	...
	Northdown .....	...	...	...	1	...	20	21	6	3	74.00	6	40.16	Corporal T. Clarke 115
	Latrobe	1	2	1	28	32	
Midland	Campbell Town.	...	1	1	1	2	32	37	28	21	102.14	7	68.71	Lieut. C. F. Pitt 148	Efficient in drill : formed too late in year to go through musketry course.
	Ross .....	...	...	2	2	1	27	32	32	27	105.48	5	50.20	Lieut. W. R. Bennett 160
	Swansea.....	...	...	...	2	1	16	19	15	9	70.11	6	41.33	Col.-Sergt. W. C. Clements..... 98
West Devon	Ulverstone .....	...	1	...	3	1	21	26	26	14	92.42	12	57.16	Capt. H. Brown 146
	Forth .....	...	...	...	2	...	19	21	10	...	...	10	58.60	Col.-Sergt. E. Hays 78
	Penguin .....	...	...	1	1	1	30	33	28	12	105.58	16	55.43	Lieut. W. Brown 144
	Castra .....	...	...	1	2	...	31	34	22	7	105.85	15	58.40	Private F. McLaren 146
	Sulphur Creek...	...	...	...	...	...	14	14	12	...	...	...	...	...
Channel	Little Oyster Cove .....	...	...	1	2	...	15	18	18	11	122.90	7	47.85	Col.-Serg. F. G. Smith 152
	Margate .....	...	...	...	1	...	19	20	20	17	121.23	3	85.33	Sergt. C. C. Meredith 154
East Devon.....	Sheffield .....	...	1	1	3	1	43	49	46	22	118.77	28	58.14	Col.-Sergt. MacLean..... 166
South Channel.	Dover .....	...	1	...	2	1	28	32	26	11	116.09	20	56.70	Private Owen Owen 154
Wellington ..	Burnie .....	...	1	...	2	...	16	19	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Somerset .....	...	...	1	1	1	18	21	7	5	69.60	5	48.20	Private H. Gale..... 88
	Table Cape .....	...	...	1	2	...	22	25	25	11	91.27	15	57.60	Sergt. V. Smith 122
	Stanley .....	...	...	1	2	1	14	18	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Waratah .....	...	...	1	2	1	11	15	10	11	84.63	...	...	Corp. J. Warburton 127
Tamar.....	Lefroy	1	...	2	...	30	33	8	8	62.12	Capt. J. Anderson 102	This detachment in a most unsatisfactory state.
	Beaconsfield .....	...	...	...	1	...	24	25	13	10	80.70	10	63.10	Corp. R. W. Council..... 116
	George Town	1	1	1	16	19	16	18	30.05	Private A. McCarron 67	This detachment in a most unsatisfactory state.

Esk	Longford & Cressy .....	...	1	1	2	...	44	48	41	18	97-38	23	46-47	Private J. Clune	135	
	Carrick .....	...	...	...	1	...	11	12	9	4	100-25	7	57-71	Private W. J. Turner	110	
Cornwall	Fingal .....	...	1	...	2	...	17	20	20	14	107-10	6	61-33	Private R. Bean	145	
	Avoca .....	...	...	...	2	...	16	18	17	8	86-00	9	58-88	Corp. H. Stanley	108	
	St. Mary's .....	...	...	1	1	...	16	18	16	3	90-66	13	57-53	Private W. Binns	118	
	Mathinna .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Huon	Geeveston .....	...	1	...	3	1	15	20	10	7	91-85	3	51-00	Private J. W. Riseley	113	
	Huonville .....	...	...	1	...	...	13	14	7	...	...	6	37-43	Corp. T. Walton	62	
Meander	Deloraine .....	...	1	1	2	1	36	41	36	16	109-50	20	49-55	Col.-Sergt. N. Rock	148	
	Westbury .....	...	...	1	1	1	19	22	20	10	74-10	10	41-10	Private A. T. French	119	
	Chudleigh .....	...	...	...	1	1	18	20	18	11	90-18	7	68-14	Private L. Horne	106	
Derwent	Brighton .....	...	...	1	1	...	15	17	16	14	92-71	2	83-50	Lieut. J. Gatty	148	
	Kempton .....	...	...	1	3	1	27	32	...	...	...	...	...	...		Only formed at end of the year.
Zeehan	Zeehan .....	...	1	1	4	2	46	54	...	...	...	...	...	...		Only formed at end of the year.
	Staff	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
	TOTALS	1	13	22	65	22	843	966	627	310	96-35 Average	309	54-70 Average			

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Major, Commanding Auxiliary Force.*