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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

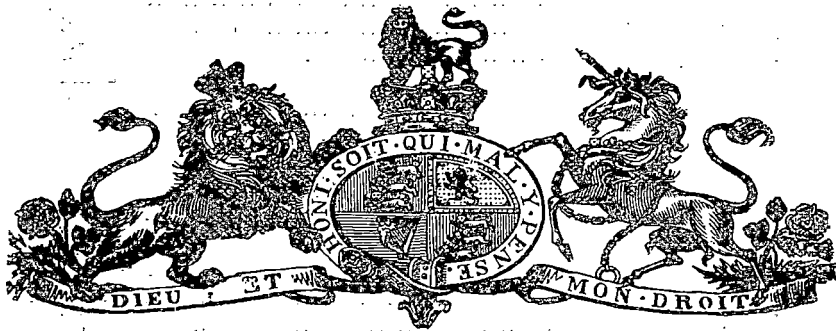
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CAMP OF EXERCISE, 1891:

REPORT.

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



## EASTER ENCAMPMENT, 1891.

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*Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 18th May, 1891.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward Reports on the recent Easter Encampments at Ross and in the vicinity of the Alexandra Battery, Hobart.

### *Sites.*

The site of the Ross camp was the same on which the 1886 camp was held, (now the property of Eustace Cameron, Esquire). Water was obtained from the Macquarie River, a few hundred yards from the camp, and wood and straw for the tents from the township of Ross. The adjacent properties, belonging to Messrs. Jackson, Riggall, &c., were kindly placed at my disposal for manœuvres, as also the whole of the Williamwood property by Mr. E. Cameron.

The site for the Hobart camp was in a field belonging to Mr. Garth, adjoining the Alexandra Battery.

### *Preparations.*

Early in March the camp ground at Ross was selected and marked out by Major Wallack and myself. On the 9th March the former, with an advanced party of Non-commissioned Officers and men of the Permanent Artillery, proceeded to Ross to commence the work of forming the camp. On the 16th March, Sergt.-Major Robertson and the remainder of the Permanent Artillery proceeded to the site chosen in the vicinity of the Alexandra Battery for the same purpose.

### *Transport.*

The transport arrangements this year were most satisfactory. Trains were punctual at starting and arriving at their destinations. I desire to record my thanks to the General Manager Government Railways and his staff for their courtesy.

The Launceston Artillery left for Hobart by train at 7 P.M., and on arrival marched to O'May's wharf and embarked on s.s. *Huon*, arriving at camp at 4 A.M.

The Tasmanian Rifle Regiment left Hobart by special train at 7-10 P.M., and arrived at Ross at 12-40.

The Launceston Rifle Regiment and Dorset Company, Auxiliary Force, left Launceston by special train at 7-50 P.M., arrived at Ross at 10-40 P.M. The North-West Coast Companies, Meander and Esk Companies, by special train, starting from Ulverstone at 3-45 P.M., arriving at Ross at 10-5 P.M.; the Portland and Cornwall Companies by special train, leaving St. Mary's at 2-50 P.M., arriving at Ross at 7-10 P.M.

The remaining detachments of Auxiliary Force were conveyed to Ross by ordinary trains. Owing to the breakdown of the s.s. *Huon*, the men of the Huon Rifle Company missed the special train from Hobart and had to remain there the night, arriving at Ross midday on the 27th.

## COMPOSITION OF THE FORCE.

*Ross Camp.*

Permanent Staff .....	4
Permanent Artillery .....	15
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment .....	118
Launceston Rifle Regiment.. ..	113
Launceston Cadets .....	47
Commissariat Corps .....	6
Auxiliary Force .....	312
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>615</b>

*Hobart Camp.*

Permanent Staff .....	1
Permanent Artillery .....	10
Launceston Artillery and Cadets .....	104
Southern Tasmanian Artillery .....	67
Torpedo Corps .....	55
Commissariat Corps .....	3
Garrison Band .....	25
<b>TOTAL</b> ..	<b>265</b>

Total of all ranks in both Camps ..... 880

The decrease in numbers attending camp this year was in the Auxiliary Force, the Defence Force being slightly in excess of 1890.

The Auxiliary Force *nominal* Returns received prior to camp showed a total of 540 men coming, but only 312 put in an appearance.

A number of men were reported as prevented attending on account of bush fires, which were very prevalent at the time the camp was formed, but the real reason for the absence of the majority was on account of not receiving pay similar to the Defence Force.

*Routine.*

The general routine was much the same as in previous camps.

The Commissariat Department (owing to the absence of Major Just in Sydney) was at Ross under Captain Kirkland, Launceston Rifle Regiment, and at Hobart under Lieutenant Packer, Torpedo Corps. Both these officers gave every satisfaction in the way they carried out their duties. No complaints were made this year as to quantity or quality of the rations issued.

The Commissariat and Transport Corps performed their duties satisfactorily.

*Training.*

I considered it advisable that the whole of the Artillery of the Colony should become acquainted with the Forts at Hobart and the working of the various type of guns, and that the Torpedo Corps should be practised in submarine mining. I therefore recommended the formation of two separate camps. I placed Captain Parker, R.N., in command of the Hobart Camp: his report (marked A) is attached. I personally commanded the Infantry Camp at Ross.

*Friday, 27th March.*

The early morning was devoted to cleaning up camp, &c.

At the midday parade the two Rifle Regiments were exercised under their respective Commanding Officers in "the Attack." The Auxiliary Force at Company Drill, under the supervision of Major Wallack and the Instructors.

In the afternoon the two Rifle Regiments were exercised by me in "the Attack," first with blank and afterwards with ball cartridge, at head-and-shoulder targets. The percentage of hits was small, but, considering it was the first time the Force was exercised in this manner, the result was fairly satisfactory. But the want of proper *daylight* training for section and half-company commanders was very apparent.

The Auxiliary Force was again exercised in Company drill, and afterwards by Major Wallack in Battalion drill.

*Second Day.*

Both Rifle Regiments and Auxiliary Force were exercised at the early morning parade in Company drill.

At the mid-day parade the whole Force were marched to the general parade ground and exercised by me in Brigade drill. The day was most oppressive, and several men fell out from the effect of the heat.

I had arranged for the two Rifle Regiments to go out for practice on outpost duty after dinner, but as the positions selected were some distance off, and the day continued so oppressive, after consultation with the medical officer in charge (Surgeon-Major Giblin), I decided to put off the outpost work until Monday, and to postpone the afternoon parade for an hour.

The two Rifle Regiments were again exercised by me in the Attack practice with ball cartridge. I was glad to observe an improvement in the work of the men, and the manner in which the half-company commanders handled them.

I had intended to have exercised the Auxiliary Force also in this practice, but as many of the N.C. officers and men had never been to camp before, I came to the conclusion it would be better to continue steady drill and defer the practice until the next camp. They were exercised in Company and Battalion drill.

*Third Day.*

All corps were employed in the early morning squaring up the camp. At 10 o'clock A.M. the Roman Catholic portion of the Force paraded, under command of Captain Watchorn, T.R.R., and marched to Ross.

The remainder of the Force paraded at 11 A.M., and were formed up between main and head-quarter camps. Divine Service was conducted by the Rev. Woollnough, Chaplain to the Forces. His Excellency the Governor arrived from Hobart and attended Divine Service. At the conclusion of the service the corps were marched to the Brigade Parade Ground, and were met there by the Roman Catholics. Companies were equalised. The brigade was then formed up in "line of quarter columns" and received His Excellency the Governor with the usual salute; after which "marched past," reformed "line of columns," and advanced in review order.

His Excellency was pleased to desire me to convey to the troops his satisfaction at their appearance, and the steady manner in which they drilled.

On return to camp Sir Robert Hamilton accompanied me round the men's dinners; everything was found satisfactory, and there were no complaints.

The lines of the whole Force were conspicuous for neatness and cleanliness.

At 3 P.M. a roll-call parade under the officers on duty was held.

*Fourth Day.*

Orders had been issued for the two Rifle Regiments to parade at 6 o'clock A.M. and proceed to take up positions (pointed out the day before) for exercise in outpost duty, but on account of rain the parade had to be postponed for one hour and a half. The men paraded with rolled great coats, and were furnished with haversack rations. It was also arranged that after I had inspected the outposts Major Martin was to attack the camp with the two Rifle Regiments; Major Wallack, with Auxiliary Force, to defend the camp. At 10 A.M. I started to inspect the outposts; but, when about two miles from camp, heavy rain commenced, and I found Major Martin withdrawing his outposts with a view of returning to camp. Shortly after the companies were assembled on the main road the rain ceased. I then rode towards the camp, and found that the heavy rain we had encountered had passed over the camp, and the Auxiliary Force had taken up positions to defend the camp. As the two Rifle Regiments were thoroughly drenched, I directed Major Martin to abandon the original idea, and to make a direct advance on the camp in attack formation. This was done; but, as the original idea was abandoned, I do not propose to enter into details.

Immediately after the return of the Force to camp heavy rain came down, and continued nearly all the afternoon, which prevented any more work being done. At 5 P.M. the greater portion of the Launceston Rifle Regiment and some of the Auxiliary Force left by special train, and at 7:20 P.M. 31 of the Tasmanian Rifle Regiment and a few more Auxiliaries left by special train for Hobart.

*Fifth Day.*

Strength of camp, 371 of all ranks. At 7 A.M. the Force was formed into one battalion, and exercised by Major Wallack.

I was engaged conducting examination of certain Auxiliary Force officers. At 10 A.M. squads from 5 companies competed for the Trophy presented by Major-General Tottenham, West Devon Rifle Company winning it. I append the report of the shooting received from Major Wallack, who superintended the competition.

The remainder of the Force was exercised as a battalion, under my superintendence. At 1 P.M. the parade was dismissed.

Immediately after dinner preparations were made for breaking up the camp. At 4.5 P.M. all Northern Corps left by special train; the Southern Corps proceeding by special train to Hobart at 5.15 P.M.

*General.*

The conduct of the Force was exemplary, one man only having been brought before me.

I had no "Night Alarm," as I am of opinion it is not of much use, and disturbs the rest of the Force. Men arrive in camp late on Thursday night or early on Friday morning. They are perfectly aware that no alarm will take place on Friday night, so sleep soundly; but on Saturday night many men lie down dressed, with boots and accoutrements on. If it does not take place that night the same preparation is made on Sunday night. The consequence is the men get up unrefreshed and find the day's work irksome. The experiment of extending the duration of the camp an extra day was a great success, as the numbers remaining prove. It also relieved the Railway Department on Easter Monday.

I received every assistance from Major Wallack, the Acting Brigade Major, in preparing the camp and carrying out the training; and I have to speak highly of the conduct of the Permanent Artillery, and the efficient manner in which they carried out their work of preparing the camp.

My thanks are due to Commanding Officers for the zealous manner in which they performed their duties. I placed Major Room and Captain Walch, Unattached List, in command of the battalions of the Auxiliary Force, and they rendered me great assistance. Captain Kirkland, in addition to acting as D.A.C.G., performed the duties of Camp Quartermaster with his usual zeal and efficiency.

Captain Jones, as Quartermaster of the Auxiliary Force, gave every satisfaction in the performance of his arduous duties.

The following documents are attached:—

- A. Report of Hobart Camp, by Captain Parker, R.N.
- B. Report of Competition Tottenham Trophy, by Major Wallack.
- C. State Ross Camp.
- D. State Hobart Camp.
- E. State of Ross Camp, Fifth day.
- F. Report of Assistant Commissary-General.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WARNER, *Lieut.-Colonel,*  
*Acting Commandant.*

*To the Hon. the Minister of Defence.*

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A.

*From Captain PARKER, R.N., to the Acting  
Commandant.*

*The Barracks, Hobart, 6th April, 1891.*

SIR,

I BEG to forward to you this Report of the work done at Alexandra Camp between the 26th and 30th March, 1891.

*Thursday, 26th March.*

I assembled the Southern Tasmanian Artillery and the Torpedo Corps at the Drill-yard, Lower Macquarie-street, and marched them to camp, preceded by the Garrison Band.

*Friday, 27th.*

The Launceston Artillery arrived about 4 A.M. under Captain Harrap, and were sent to their tents to rest. A 7 A.M. the Southern Tasmanian Artillery were paraded for company drill, and the Torpedo Corps were employed filling up the shelter trench above the camp. After breakfast, the Southern Tasmanian Artillery embarked in the steamer *Huon* for Bluff Battery for drill and firing; they were in charge of Major Evans, S.T.A., and after 3.30 P.M. fired 5 rounds from the 80-pr.

The Torpedo Corps, under Captain Henry, also embarked in the *Huon* to bring from Hobart one E. C. mine, with the necessary cables, battery, powder, &c. for the submarine mining practice. Both these parties returned to camp by 5 P.M., the Torpedo Corps having laid out their mine.

At 10.30 A.M. the Launceston Artillery paraded for my inspection. They were then employed in Alexandra Battery at drill at the various natures of guns, both A.M. and P.M.

*Saturday, 28th.*

Between 7 A.M. and 8 A.M. the Launceston Artillery were employed in Alexandra Battery; the Southern Tasmanian Artillery were filling up the shelter trench, and the Torpedo Corps were putting together their batteries and preparing their mines. After breakfast the Torpedo Corps were again preparing their mines, the Southern Tasmanian Artillery were at drill in Alexandra Battery, and the Launceston Artillery were in part employed in the Alexandra Battery, and the rest on guard.

At noon His Excellency the Governor visited the camp. He was received by me and the three Commanding Officers of Corps, viz., Major Evans, S.T.A., Major Collins, L.A., and Captain Henry, T.T.C. A guard was furnished by the Launceston Artillery under Captain Harrap. His Excellency proceeded to Alexandra Battery, where he witnessed firing from the 6-in. and 5-in. H.P. guns and 6-pr. Q.F. guns by the Southern Tasmanian Artillery. This over, he proceeded to the camp and inspected it while the men were at dinner. The men's dinner over, His Excellency left the camp (having first inspected the guard of the Launceston Artillery) and proceeded to One Tree Point, where two 50-lb. gunpowder mines were exploded in his presence, one by the steamer *Huon* bumping the E.C. mine, the other as an observation mine by pressing a firing-key.

After His Excellency's departure the Torpedo Corps were employed putting their gear in order, and preparing two more mines for use on Monday. The Southern Tasmanian Artillery were at drill in Alexandra Battery, and the Launceston Artillery proceeded to the Bluff Battery in the steamer *Huon* to fire from the 8-in. M.L.R. gun. I personally superintended this practice, the object of which was to test the recently repaired pivot of the gun. One reduced charge and one full charge were fired; the party reaching camp again about 6 P.M. From 7 P.M. to 8.30 P.M. the Torpedo Corps worked the electric light at One Tree Point.

*Sunday, 29th.*

At 10.30 A.M. all three Corps were inspected by me, and then marched to church. The service was performed in the camp-field by the Rev. Mr. Dixon.

*Monday, 30th.*

The work which had been ordered between 7 A.M. and 8 A.M. was not carried out owing to the heavy rain. The whole of the men were, during the forenoon, engaged in packing up and preparing for their departure. Dinner was ordered at noon, and at 1.30 P.M. the Southern Tasmanian Artillery embarked in the steamer *Huon* for Queen's Battery to fire 10 rounds from the 64-pr. At 2 P.M. the Launceston Artillery went to Alexandra Battery to fire, if possible, and the Torpedo Corps to One Tree Point to explode their mines. The weather was so bad that I had to keep the men under shelter as much as possible, but during the afternoon the Torpedo Corps exploded two 25-lb. gunpowder mines, one as an E.C. mine by bumping; the other by firing-key. The Launceston Artillery also fired 2 rounds from the 6-in. H.P. gun, 3 rounds from the 5-in. H.P. gun, and 500 rounds from the Nordenfeldt Machine Gun. All parties were back in camp, and the mines set were picked up, by 5 P.M.

At 6 P.M. all three Corps assembled and, preceded by the Garrison Band, marched to the Hobart Railway Station. Here each Corps was taken charge of by its own Commanding Officer. The Launceston Artillery was marched into the Station to take the train for the North; the other two Corps went to the Drill-yard and were dismissed.

During the four days there was only one casualty, and that a slight one. One of the Launceston Artillery got his hand jammed while drilling at the 6-in. H.P. gun.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP R. H. PARKER, *Captain, R.N.*

B.

*Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 26th May, 1891.**From the Staff Adjutant to the Acting Commandant.*

SIR,

IN accordance with your instructions, I have the honour to report that on Tuesday, March 31st, I conducted the field-firing of the six teams entered for the competition for Major-General Tottenham's prize.

By the attached Returns it will be seen that No. 1 Team, West Devon Company, won by one point; it was also the best drilled and best handled.

The firing of all the teams would have been much better if the Section-Commanders had been up to their work; they were too hurried in their words of command, and scarcely gave their men time to take aim.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Major, Staff-Adjutant.*

RESULT of the Firing for the prizes given by Major-General Tottenham.

West Devon, No. 1 ..... Points 12, drill good.  
 Wellington..... Points 10  
 Meander..... Points 11  
 East Devon..... Points 7  
 West Devon, No. 2..... Points 6  
 Midland..... Points 5, drill good.

C.

*STRENGTH of the Tasmanian Defence Force at the Camp of Exercise at Ross, March 26 to 30, 1891.*

CORPS.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Surgeons.	Chaplains.	Paymasters.	Quartermasters.	Warrant Officers.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters and Buglers.	Band.	Rank and File.	Total all Ranks.
Staff .....	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tasmanian Permanent Artillery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	14	15
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment .....	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	9	5	...	96	118
Launceston Rifle Regiment .....	1	2	4	...	...	...	1	2	3	10	4	19	67	113
Ditto Cadets.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	43	47
1st Battalion Auxiliary Force .....	1	4	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	7	5	...	130	152
2nd Battalion Auxiliary Force.....	...	3	6	...	...	...	...	1	...	9	8	...	133	160
Commissariat Corps .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	6
	5	11	16	1	1	...	2	5	4	40	23	19	488	615

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Major, Staff Adjutant.*

D.

*STRENGTH of the TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE at the Camp of Exercise at the Alexandra Battery, March 26th to 30th, 1891.*

CORPS.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Surgeons.	Paymasters.	Quartermasters.	Warrant Officers.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters and Buglers.	Band.	Rank and File.	Total of all Ranks.
Staff .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tasmanian Permanent Artillery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	9	10
Launceston Artillery .....	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	4	4	2	...	89	104
Southern Tasmanian Artillery .....	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	7	2	...	52	67
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps.....	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	46	55
Garrison Band.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	24	...	25
Commissariat Corps .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
	3	4	5	1	...	...	3	6	14	6	24	199	265

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Major, Staff Adjutant.*

## E.

*STRENGTH of the Tasmanian Defence Force at the Camp of Exercise at Ross on the 31st March, 1891.*

Corps.	Officers.	Warrant Officers.	Sergeants.	Buglers.	Rank and File.	TOTAL.
Staff.....	2	...	...	...	...	2
Tasmanian Permanent Artillery.....	...	...	1	...	14	15
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment .....	3	1	8	4	69	85
Launceston Rifle Regiment .....	...	1	4	...	22	27
Auxiliary Force .....	13	2	19	...	202	236
Commissariat Corps .....	...	...	1	...	5	6
	18	4	33	4	312	371

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Major, Staff Adjutant.*

## F.

## EASTER ENCAMPMENT, 1891.—REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSARY-GENERAL.

*Hobart, 28th May, 1891.*

SIR,

1. I HAVE the honour to report on the Commissariat Department at the Camps of Exercise held at Ross, and at the Alexandra Battery, Hobart; from 26th to 31st March last, inclusive.

2. After arranging all details connected with the Department, I obtained leave of absence to proceed to Sydney on important official business, and appointed deputies to superintend the depôts, viz.—for Ross Camp, Captain A. Kirkland, of the Launceston Rifle Regiment, and for Alexandra Battery Camp, Lieut. H. E. Packer, of the Torpedo Corps. These officers performed their duties in a very satisfactory manner. All commissariat appliances worked well.

3. I received my orders on 18th February for the two camps—one at Ross, 1000 men for four days, and 800 men for one day; another at the Alexandra Battery, Hobart, 200 men for five days. The time was afterwards increased to six days each camp, and I made the necessary contracts accordingly.

4. The ration scale was, by your orders, varied from that of previous years. The daily bread ration per man was reduced from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lbs.; the meat ration was increased from 1 lb. to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.; the sugar ration from two to three ounces; the coffee from one-third to one-half ounce, and the tea from one-sixth to one-quarter ounce.

5. The rations were all of best quality, and supplied as under:—

Bread—Mr. John Turner, Hobart.

Mr. H. J. Davis, Ross.

Meat—Mr. Johnston Sharp, jun., Hobart.

Mr. Charles Bacon, Ross.

General Groceries—Messrs. W. Murdoch & Co., Hobart.

Tea and Sugar—Colonial Storekeeper, ditto.

Potatoes—Mr. A. W. Williams, ditto.

Vegetables—Messrs. Ah Ham & Co., ditto.

Saveloys—Mr. T. R. H. Sholtz, ditto.

6. The number of full rations issued at the Encampments was 5122, and, in addition, 443 men were supplied with extra or partial rations. This includes the advance parties engaged in preparing camp. The cost of rations only amounted to £236 6s. 9d., being at the rate of 11·01d. per man per diem. There will be certain small charges against the Commissariat Department not yet ascertained, but the total cost will not exceed 1s. per man per diem.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. C. JUST, *Major, A.C.G.*

*The Acting Commandant,  
The Barracks, Hobart.*