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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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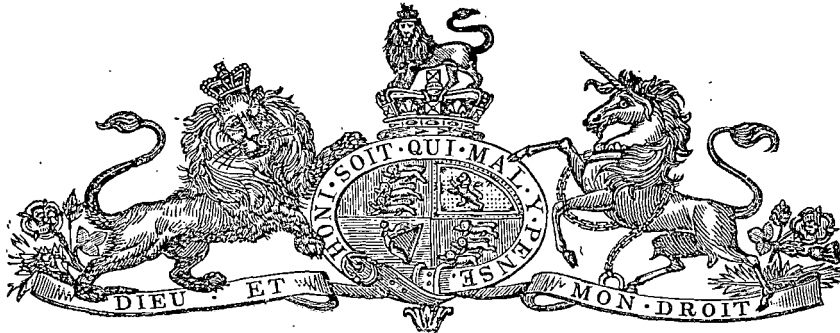
TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE:

REPORT BY THE COMMANDANT.

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

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Head Quarters Office, 1st January, 1900.

## ANNUAL REPORT.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my Annual Report of the Defence Force of Tasmania for the year ending 31st December, 1899.

The total strength of the Force has decreased by 92, chiefly owing to the enrolment of the Contingent late in the year.

There has been a general improvement in the drill, although the number of efficient has fallen disproportionately to the decrease. This is mainly owing to unexpected difficulties in carrying out the musketry course, both at Hobart and Launceston.

### PERMANENT ARTILLERY.

This Corps now numbers 12 of all ranks. Several men who had only been engaged for one year took their discharge on the 1st of January, principally owing to the reduction in pay, which came into force during the year 1898. I had some difficulty in replacing these gunners, and I have been very particular as to character and references, but finally a respectable set of men have been got together, whose conduct and discipline throughout the year have been excellent.

I have the same complaint to make as in my last year's Report, of the very small strength of this Corps. There are scarcely enough men to form a small gun detachment; the few there are being almost continuously at fatigue work in the batteries and Ordnance stores, and instead of being well trained as gunners, their whole time is taken up in the abovementioned work.

I again strongly recommend that the Corps be increased sufficiently to form two gun detachments. Matters have improved, however, this year. Corporal James O'Rourke, of the 78th Battery, R.F.A., arrived from Shoeburyness in January, to take up the duties of Master Gunner and Artillery Instructor, with the local rank of Quarter-Master-Sergeant. Throughout the year the men have had drills at short intervals, and in the month of August were all taken off duty for a three-weeks' course of gunnery, under the Instructor. Corporal Boland was sent, in July, to the School of Gunnery in Sydney, and there went through the "Long Course," returning at the end of the year qualified to instruct.

Sergeant O'Rourke is a smart well-trained and competent N.C.O., and has, so far, given satisfaction.

### PARTIALLY-PAID CORPS.

#### LAUNCESTON ARTILLERY.

This Corps has done good work during the year, and is now under the command of Major G. Harrap, and numbers 85. A Field Battery "Section" has been formed. Horses have been hired for daylight parades and instruction, under Sergeant O'Rourke. This Section attended the Easter Camp, as well as the Annual Eucampment for the training of the Corps, which was held this year at Ross. I strongly recommend that horses should be purchased for this Corps. Fresh horses have to be hired on nearly every occasion, which, of course, militates against the drivers properly learning their work. A good class of horse was procured at Ross, but the same animals will, probably, not be obtainable this year. This is manifestly fatal to good progress in drill for such periods as three or four days.

50 officers and men attended the Ross Camp of Instruction, which lasted from Thursday, 9th till Sunday, the 12th of November. The men were under the command of Captain Croft; the Commanding Officer (as well as a number of the men) being down with influenza, which accounted for the small muster. The guns brought to Camp were one 40-pr. B.L., two 12-pr. B.L., and two 7-pr. Jointed M.L. guns. Good practice was made from all these, a range of 3200 yards being

obtainable for the 12-prs. The target used for the Field and Jointed guns were "head and shoulder" dummies, and for the 40-pr., a gun epaulment constructed of stones and timber.

The site of the Camp was the same used on two former occasions for the whole Force, at Easter. It is an excellent one, both as regards ground for drill and ranges for practice. I recommend that it be used permanently, so long as the landlord, Mr. Eustace Cameron, kindly places it at the use of the Government.

Four Inspections of this Corps have been held, at which the men have always turned out very creditably. A good many took their discharge during the year, which accounts for the very small increase.

#### *Harness Room.*

A room is being built contiguous to drill-shed for the accommodation of the harness, and instruction in its up-keep and fitting.

#### SOUTHERN TASMANIAN ARTILLERY.

The strength of the Southern Tasmanian Artillery is 83, showing an increase of 3 men only. It is divided into two small companies, which, under the efficient and careful command of Lieut.-Col. Evans, maintain their usual smart and well-disciplined character. The Corps, however, does not increase in numbers, owing to the varied character of the drill, and the hard work entailed in it. The Commanding Officer is still of opinion that if the men could earn more pay the companies could be filled up to their establishment, and I think he is right. Another detriment to an increase in the strength is the difficulty the men have in getting leave from their employers to attend the daylight parades, which are necessary for the training.

38 Officers and men attended the Easter Camp at Bellerive, furnishing a field gun section, which was commanded and horsed principally by Captain R. C. Lewis. Very fair practice was carried out from the "12-prs." during the Camp, at a range of 2700 yards.

The drills constituting the annual training commenced in October and were finished at the end of December. Practice was carried on from the Bluff and Alexandra batteries with fair results, R.M.L. and the 6-pr. guns being used. The vote for ammunition being slightly increased, the men had the advantage of more practice than the preceding year. Some few rounds remained to be fired away during the early part of this year.

Much inconvenience is caused from the impossibility, every year, of obtaining a proper steamer for laying out the targets. The master of the boat now employed refuses to tow; the consequence is, no practice at moving targets can be carried out. A stout launch should be procured by the Government for all services in connection with the forts. At present, one is totally dependent on the local steamboat and tram traffic, which does not suit as regards time, and costs, in the aggregate, a considerable sum. The boat could probably be used, when not wanted, by the Marine Board.

Four inspections of this Corps were held, at which the turn-out and drill were satisfactory. Five Non-Commissioned Officers and men were furnished for the Infantry Contingent in South Africa, which was very creditable.

#### TASMANIAN ENGINEERS.

This Corps numbers 51, showing an increase of 12 men during the year. Captain Parker now commands it. This officer passed his examination for Lieutenant during the year, and now has a provisional rank of Captain. He has done excellent work during the year, and the Corps has improved in every way.

#### *Training.*

The training was carried out at the end of the year; and, during the several months preceding it, instructional parades bearing on the work of the training were held. The money allowed was not sufficient to carry out an extended course; but sub-marine mining, bridging, and elementary fortification were pressed into it. The work of the Corps, I may remark, consists chiefly now of Engineering, in accordance with my recommendation in the last paragraph of my Report for 1898.

A Royal Engineer Non-Commissioned Officer Instructor is much required. Attention was called to this fact last year, but the requirements of the Infantry, in the matter of Instructors, have been so great that I have not considered it advisable to ask for an Imperial Instructor at the present time.

I must again call attention to the urgent necessity for the erection of a "Sand-model" room, on the site spoken of last year. Instruction could then be carried out in Field-work for the Engineers, and in entrenchments and shelter trenches for the Infantry in the garrison, the building being, thus, of use to the whole force. Excavations, supply of sand, and construction of shed, could all be carried out for about £200. Subaltern Officers are much required, but, it is difficult to induce young men of technical ability to come forward, the expense of an outfit being one of the causes existent.

Money has been provided for carts, for Field Telegraphy, which it is proposed to construct on the Victorian pattern. When these are acquired this branch of Engineering will be taken up by the Corps.

The Corps attended 4 Inspections this year, with satisfactory result.

## VOLUNTEER CORPS.

## MOUNTED INFANTRY.

It is satisfactory to be able to report the inception of this useful branch of the service. Money having been voted last year for a half-company, it was decided to make a start on the North Coast, as I was generally given to understand that a suitable class of men owning horses could be recruited in that locality. The money granted was found to be only sufficient for the equipment of one division, which was formed at Ulverstone. Sergeant-Major Goucher was sent to Victoria to be instructed in Mounted Infantry and Maxim Drill, and has made fair progress with the division at Ulverstone. Suitable men have come forward for enrolment, but the horses in the district are not of the right stamp, being either small and weedy, or too high. This, I fear, will be the chief difficulty as regards this branch of the service. Mr. Thompson, of the Forth District, has been selected from the ranks for recommendation for a provisional Lieutenancy. I inspected this division on Thursday, December 28, and found that they had made fair progress under the instructor in Mounted Drill. Every man is obliged to pass through a provisional course of musketry, and qualify as a fair shot before being permanently enrolled.

Money has been placed on the Estimates for the formation of a half company in the South, and a second division of the northern company, and steps will be at once taken to carry this into effect.

## INFANTRY REGIMENT.

*General.*

There has been a slight improvement in the Infantry during the past year, although there has been a decrease of over 100 men in the strength. This has been partly caused by the drain on the three battalions at the end of the year to furnish the First Contingent for South Africa, and the disinclination of Commanding Officers to commence filling up the vacancies until the beginning of this year. Every exertion has been made by the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Wallack, to improve the country companies, and make them more efficient, but, as I pointed out in my last year's Report, the paucity of instructors has made this an almost impossible task. These companies are split up in small detachments all over the country, and with only one Instructor per battalion, two of whom are half their time employed in clerical work (one at Head Quarters, and the other at Launceston), but little time is available for instruction at out-stations. The Instructor on the North Coast, moreover, has had to undertake Mounted Infantry work as well as the instruction of the third battalion. Money has been placed on the Estimates for two extra Instructors, which will enable better work to be done during this year. To train the three battalions, however, to even a fair standard of proficiency, at least three Instructors per battalion are required. One of these should do, in addition to his other work, the duties of Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant, and visit, as often as possible, the whole of the outlying companies, with a view to the proper supervision of the arms and accoutrements in charge. This is necessary in the absence of paid Adjutants, and the inability of company commanders, under the purely volunteer system, to exercise control over the Government property in their charge. Ever since I came to the Colony, I have urged that three Adjutants for each regiment or battalion should be appointed, as at Home. As this does not appear feasible at present, good might be done by paying the Quarter-master-Sergeants of the country companies, and putting the whole of the equipment in their sub-charge.

*Drill-Halls.*—The want of proper drill-halls wherever there is a whole company, or a large detachment, is much felt. Government assistance has been given to the commanding officer of the Zeehan company, and an excellent hall has been built by him. There are several other stations where I should like to see halls erected on similar lines. The most urgent necessity at present is that of Ulverstone, where the head-quarters of the third battalion has been made, and where even the hired drill hall is totally inadequate for the purpose.

*Arms.*—A small number of the Martini-Enfield rifles received last year have been issued to certain companies, and the Contingent under Major Cameron were also armed with this weapon. This is a suitable rifle for Mounted Infantry, owing to its handiness, but I do not recommend its general adoption for the Infantry, which should be armed with the service pattern Magazine Rifle. I have asked for 1000 as a first instalment, and 250 have been ordered by telegram. There has been considerable delay in the supply of Maxim Guns, which have been expected for the last nine months, and have not yet arrived.

The Martini-Henry rifles, with which the Infantry are armed, have been considerably over time in use, and some of the barrels are now unserviceable. The re-armament of the men with an up-to-date rifle is therefore a matter of great importance.

I referred last year to the insufficiency of the musketry course. More money should be allowed for ammunition to make up the *quantum* of rounds for the course.

*Battalions*—No. 1.—Matters have not been in a satisfactory state in the Head Quarter companies during the year, but an improvement is apparent during the last month or two. As I pointed out last year, many of the men were of an undesirable stamp, and to get rid of them a temporary disbandment was necessary. I applied for this to the then Minister of Defence, but without success. A number of the men who were reducing the status of the companies by slackness

and non-attendance at drill were discharged, and non-commissioned officers who were not smart enough, placed in the reserve; this has been found to have a good effect.

The want of an efficient Adjutant has long been felt in this battalion; the officer acting in that capacity resigned his position. Another officer, however, who is eligible for the position, is about to be appointed, and will, I hope, render the necessary assistance to his commanding officer. The newly-formed Sandy Bay Company has made excellent progress, and is composed of smart and intelligent men, with a zealous commanding officer. The Clarence Company, which is affiliated with the head-quarter units of the battalion, is also doing well, the men mustering very fairly at battalion parades in Hobart. This battalion numbers 562, and mustered nearly 300 men at the Bellerive camp.

The falling off in the efficient of this battalion to the number of 113 is mainly owing to the difficulties in carrying out the musketry course, consequent on the closing of the rifle range.

Four (4) inspections were held during the year, and on the whole the work was satisfactory.

One officer and 27 men were furnished for the South African Contingent, and the principal contributing companies to it were the Zeehan, 5; Clarence, 7; Derwent, 3.

*Second Battalion.*—This Battalion is the strongest of the three, numbering, on the 31st December, 623 of all ranks. There has been an improvement in the City companies, which are immediately under the zealous command of Lieutenant-Colonel Martin. Lieutenant Heritage was appointed during the year to the Acting-Adjutancy of the battalion, and proved himself an energetic and capable officer. He was, however, selected for service in South Africa, and his place will be difficult to fill. The country companies show a fair proportion of efficient, the Longford company being the worst. The attendance of this company and that of the Fingal company at camp is very poor, the Avoca detachment of the latter furnishing the majority of the men for camp. The attendance of the whole battalion for Easter training was only 218. Four inspections of this battalion were held, which was satisfactory.

There was a poor muster of the Second Battalion at the Camp, only 218 of all ranks being present.

The want of a proper drill-ground at Launceston militates greatly against the work of this battalion. I strongly recommend that some steps be taken to utilise the market-green for the parade ground, as there is space here for extended-order drill. It would require lighting with three arc lights, and should be enclosed with a fence, which work might possibly be undertaken by the Town authorities. This battalion furnished 33 men for the Contingents, of which 12 belonged to the Head-Quarter companies, seven from Evandale, five from Scottsdale, five from Campbell Town, and its detachments, these being the principal contributing companies. The officers furnished were Captain Cameron, of the Evandale company, and Lieutenant Heritage.

*Third Battalion.*—This Battalion numbers only five companies, the total strength of all ranks being 376. It is not in such a satisfactory state as the others, owing to its recent formation, and the non-establishment (as yet) of head-quarter offices (see aforementioned remarks), and can therefore be looked upon only as a nucleus of what I hope will be a good Battalion. The companies on the North Coast are split up into too many detachments, that of Sheffield being the exception, at which township the whole company assembles for drill.

Requests have been made by inhabitants of Queenstown and Strahan for the formation of companies there, and if, under my proposed re-organisation, these companies are sanctioned, they will, together with that at Zeehan, form the remaining three units of the Third Battalion. It is a great pity that the concession of passes to volunteers travelling in uniform on the Emu Bay Line has not been granted, as there will, under present circumstances, be much less cohesion among the companies than if the men had been allowed to travel free.

An Instructor, Sergeant-Major Goucher, has been stationed at Ulverstone, where quarters have been purchased on a block of land with sufficient space for the proposed drill-hall and head-quarter offices, which, I trust, will shortly be erected, and without which the Battalion will not acquire its proper status.

Captain Wallace Brown who attended the first class of instruction during the year, passed well, and is a smart and zealous officer; he was appointed Acting-Adjutant, and rendered the Commanding Officer, Major Brown, much assistance. He, however, volunteered for South Africa, and the battalion is now in the same state as the second, without an Adjutant. The disadvantage which this purely country battalion labours under is want of transport to bring the outlying companies together for Battalion Parade at Ulverstone; but when the Burnie line is finished, I hope to be able to assemble the men from there and Devonport, occasionally at Head-Quarters.

Captain Perceval, who was appointed Staff Officer for Infantry in the north of the Island, visited and instructed the various companies in each battalion at the beginning of the year, before he was obliged to leave the Colony. The muster of this battalion at Camp was a poor one, but slightly better in proportion to its strength than the Second Battalion. There were 144 of all ranks present.

This battalion furnished one officer and 16 men for South Africa, the majority of whom belong to the first and second West Devon companies, eight men coming from Penguin alone.

#### CADETS.

*Southern Tasmanian Corps.*—This Corps numbers 6 Honorary Lieutenants and 133 cadets, and is now under the command of Captain Buckland; the discipline among the boys is better than

it was, although there is still much to be desired in this respect among the rank and file. A good many undesirable lads have been weeded out, and this has done no little good.

The Honorary Lieutenants have, however, done very well, two of them having passed into the commissioned ranks of the Regiment, among whom is Lieutenant Roberts, who acted for some time as Adjutant to the First Battalion. Lieutenant Reid, an ex-Officer of the R.F. Artillery, joined the Force this year, and was appointed Adjutant, but has left the Colony as an Officer of the Contingent.

*Northern Corps.*—The Cadets at Launceston number 50, and the Corps is in a satisfactory state. It is now under the command of an Officer of the Second Battalion, as there are no Honorary Lieutenants at present in it.

#### ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

There have been 1 Non-Commissioned Officer and 17 men enrolled at Launceston by Captain Holmes, A.M.S., to form a section of the Bearer Company mentioned in my last Report. The men are a fine and respectable body; they have made excellent progress, under Captain Holmes, in all branches of their work. The total strength, 17, attended Bellerive Camp, and had the advantage of four days' daylight work. The ambulance waggons, I regret to say, have been sent to South Africa as transport carts, but, if in a fit state at the end of the campaign, will be returned.

#### CLASS OF INSTRUCTION.

Two classes of instruction for Infantry and Non-Commissioned Officers have been held during the year. The first lasted from January 3rd to 18th. There were 10 Officers and 13 Non-Commissioned Officers present. The Officers were Captain Brown and Lieutenants Brown, Bond, Cole, Gurney, Henslowe, Heritage, Kildea, Roberts, and Sale.

The second class was held in August, from the 8th to the 23rd, and was attended by 8 Officers and 13 Non-Commissioned Officers. The Officers were Captain W. Brown (who had to leave the former class during the course of instruction) and Lieutenants Bisdee, Coldstream, Hawley, Johnson, Ogilvy, Sansom, and Wylly.

The results of these classes are all that could be desired; besides receiving instruction and passing examinations for promotion, both Officers and men become smart and soldier-like, and when they return to their companies exercise a beneficial effect upon them. No Officer, in future, should be appointed who cannot quit his avocation to attend a class. Lieutenant-Colonel Wallack acted as Chief Instructor, and was assisted by Sergeant-Majors Clapshaw and Costello.

#### EASTER ENCAMPMENT.

The Easter training of the Force was carried out last year in the vicinity of Hobart. The site chosen was about a mile from Bellerive. The sole object I had in view in asking for this site was to ascertain, by carrying out manœuvres on Easter Monday, how many men, approximately, would be required for the defence of the eastern approach to Hobart from Frederick Henry Bay. So far as this was concerned, the experiment was a satisfactory one, but the locality, and, in fact, any one near either of the cities, is undesirable. The cartage of the water and stores across the *Derwent* to camp was too expensive in proportion to the small attendance, and during the Sunday, supply had to be drawn from the tanks at Mr. J. B. Curran's residence. This gentleman was most obliging in assisting in any way that he could.

As you will observe by the "Parade State," the attendance, compared with the strength of the Force on the 31st December, was very small, which is particularly noticeable in the case of the Second Battalion. The muster from the North Coast was also small, the distance being far too great, necessitating a whole day and night in the train.

The Field Section of the Launceston Artillery attended for drill purposes only. The Southern Tasmanian Artillery brought a section, Captain Lewis procuring suitable horses from his estate. Practice was carried out from 12-pr. B.-L. guns on Saturday, with fair results. A good range was procured with the targets on the slope of a steep hill, which tended to minimise the result of the shrapnel fire. The Infantry Battalions were exercised, principally under the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Wallack, in extended order, skirmishing, and out-post duty, in the surrounding bush, very fair work being done, particularly by the Second Battalion.

No night work was done, as the weather was very bad on Sunday night, which was the only time available. I have again to point out how insufficient four days are for the Easter training; the men no sooner begin to get steady, when it is time to break up camp, and if there is any bad weather the entire programme is interfered with. Last year, however, about 150 men stayed for a fifth day's work, which consisted of field-firing, carried out on Easter Tuesday. As the camp is an unpaid one, comparatively few men can afford to remain for the fifth day.

The results of the field-firing were not satisfactory, the men having had very little practice with ball cartridge during the year. The targets, however, were difficult, being rows of head-and-shoulder dummies, placed on the top and slopes of the sandune to represent a landing from boats. On Easter Monday field manœuvres were carried out, the attacking Force being sent out to Rokeby. The defence of the Clarence Plains Road being a position taken up on the western slopes of the range (Skillion Hill), with the centre resting on Mr. Young's farm.

The work was somewhat marred by the attacking Force being late in leaving camp for their position. Some mistakes were made, as is always the case at these manœuvres, and which shows the necessity for more practice at field-work, which only can be had by *paid daylight* parades, at which proper musters could be obtained.

These manœuvres, however, were very useful, at it gave me an excellent idea of the Force required for the defence of the eastern approach to Hobart.

As regards the Easter training in general, I entirely disapprove of the constant annual change of site, to suit the Hobart and Launceston sections of the Force. New arrangements as regards transport, camp-pitching, commissariat, &c., have to be made every year, and heavy material transported from one side of the Island to the other, necessitating much needless expense. Although it is very desirable that the Infantry Battalions should be made familiar with the approaches to the capitals in time of peace, it is the actual, practical, and useful training of each individual man as a unit of the whole Force, that is the main point to be aimed at. For this purpose, suitable ground for carrying out such a training (of seven days at least) is the great desideratum; and as this exists to an eminent degree in the midlands, where the open hilly country presents such a splendid field for operations, it is there that a permanent site for the camp should be chosen.

A depôt for heavy stores could be made at Ross, where there are several old buildings, which could be chosen from, and where the stores could be economically supervised, and constantly visited by a military official. The site of a camp for permanent use could be surveyed, and rough sheds, which are required in this cold climate, put up, for the night accommodation of the horses, water laid on, and all arrangements made to suit the yearly requirements of the training. So far as I am aware, land could be rented annually in this district, and, with a careful military survey made of the country for some miles outwards, for the information of the Officers, excellent work could be done every year. Not only would the Force reap the benefit of this plan, but the responsibility resting on the shoulders of the Commandant and his small staff, of arranging every year for a new camp, would be removed. Last, but not least, much more satisfactory arrangements could be made with the General Manager of Railways, who would be familiar, beforehand, with the amount of transport required from his department.

I beg to testify my appreciation of the services rendered by the General Manager of Railways, which, considering the small amount of rolling-stock available, and the congestion of traffic at the time of year, were, I believe, the best that could be rendered.

#### TASMANIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The work in connection with this Association has been done, as in past years, by Lieut.-Colonel Davies; seven meetings have been held by the Committee (of which I am President), during the year. A team of ten (10) members proceeded to Victoria in November to take part in the Federal Match, which was fired with the M.E. rifle; a very large quantity of .303 ammunition was, in my opinion, wasted in the practice for the selection of the team, and rifles sent to detachments in remote parts of the country, who have given much trouble in the irregular return of the arms when called for.

It was my desire that the practice should be carried out for the selection of the team with the Martini-Henry, and that the team should afterwards practice with the .303; this was, however, over-ruled by a majority of the Committee.

The Tasmanian team was fifth on the list in the competition.

The annual meeting of the Association was held at Launceston, on the 27th of December, 1899, at which the shooting was fair, considering the very bad weather. The Champion match was won by Private Sharland, and Tattersall's trophy for "Corps or Detachments," by the Derwent Company.

#### SANDY BAY RIFLE RANGE.

In continuation of the improvements on this range in 1898, when the new butt was erected, arrangements have been made in the past year for the accommodation of 16 disappearing targets, of General French's pattern, which was the cheapest and simplest in use up to the present time. When in Sydney, in October, 1898, I made a careful examination of the range at Randwick, and prepared drawings for sub-way mantlets and targets, and had the work carried out, with your approval, by Messrs. Stabb Bros., under my personal supervision. The work is now practically complete, with the exception of asphaltting the sub-way.

#### LAUNCESTON RIFLE RANGE.

This range is still in a bad state for want of drainage. I trust the necessary improvements will be carried out this year, and a certain number of canvas targets on the disappearing system erected. I may mention that Sergeant-Major Goucher has recently brought out an improvement on General French's system, which will be well adapted for country ranges, and also for the Launceston.

I propose to use this target if satisfactory arrangements can be made as regards the "royalty" asked for.

## TASMANIAN CONTINGENT.

On the outbreak of war in South Africa, the Tasmanian Governments, in common with those of the other Australian Colonies, offered the services of a contingent, drawn from the Defence Force. On the acceptance of the offer by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the call was splendidly responded to by Tasmania, many more men offering their services than there was room for. Captain Cameron (afterwards promoted to Major), and the other Officers in command, have been referred to, and owing to the efficient way in which they assisted in the training of the men, the latter embarked after three weeks' work, as smart and well drilled a body of men as any sent from Australasia.

Fortunately, owing to the small number enrolled, I was enabled to place them in Barracks, and subject them in every way to the same discipline as the ordinary British soldier, and this, combined with the strict disciplinarian qualities of Major Cameron, was the making of the Contingent.

Much credit is due, also, to Lieut.-Colonel Wallack, under whom I placed the men for their training, and who worked untiringly to make them as smart as possible.

The Non-Commissioned Officers' instructors were Sergeant-Majors Costello and Clapshaw, who worked energetically; the former was sent in charge of the Contingent as Sergeant-Major, and has done splendid work in South Africa.

Both officers and men have acquitted themselves splendidly in all the operations they have been engaged in, and raised the character of Tasmanians as soldiers to the highest point.

## GENERAL.

*Queensland Camp of Exercise.*—Acting on the recommendations of the Imperial Defence Committee, that the Commandants and Staff Officers of each Colony should visit each other's camps, when practicable, an invitation was sent to me by the Honourable the Premier of Queensland, to attend the Camp of Exercises at Lytton in May last, but the invitation was declined by the late Minister of Defence. I accordingly applied for leave of absence, and attended the camp at my own expense, for the purpose of gaining experience in the working of the Mounted Infantry, a splendid body of which was present at the Camp.

There were 5 other officers present, accredited by the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria. We were most hospitably treated by the Honourable the Premier and the Commandant and his Staff. The encampment lasted 9 days, and I was much impressed with the effect which a training of that period has upon Colonial troops.

*Conference of Commandants.*—At the commencement of the Boer War, a Conference of Commandants was held in Melbourne, which I attended, leaving Tasmania on the 28th September, and returning on the 7th October. It was attended by the whole of the Commandants in Australia, who sat for 5 days, the object being to formulate a scheme for the organisation of a complete Australian Brigade of all arms for service in South Africa. This was effected, although during the Conference the difficulties attending work to be done by an unfederated force were apparent. At the conclusion of our labours a telegram was received by the Premier of Victoria, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking for separate and independent units from each Colony, which consequently defeated the object the Conference had in view.

## STAFF.

The members of the Permanent Staff—Lieut.-Colonel Wallack, Commanding Infantry, and Acting A.A.G.; Captain Perceval, I.S. Officer—and those of the Volunteer Staff—Lieut.-Colonel A. Reid, Acting A.Q.M.G.; Major Robert Henry, S.O. for Submarine Mining; Captain W. J. J. Reynolds, Permanent Range Officer; Lieutenant A. C. Parker, Acting Field A.D.C.—have all worked zealously during the past year, and have rendered me every assistance. The services of the Volunteer Staff are requisitioned at any time when work arises for them, which is particularly the case in preparing for the annual training, when they all work with a united effort to make it a success.

The brunt of the Camp preparations fell, this year, on Lieut.-Colonels Wallack and Reid. Captain Perceval's appointment was confirmed (with a small salary) at the beginning of the year, but, after starting his work of re-organisation of the country companies in the North, he was obliged, owing to private affairs, to relinquish his appointment; and leave the Colony. The whole of the infantry work, therefore, again fell upon the shoulders of the Chief Staff Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Wallack; but this task, without the aid of an Adjutant, and combined with constant duty at Headquarters, is, owing to the widely-extended distribution of the country companies, an impossible one. I trust, therefore, that during the present year you will be able to furnish me with the services of an Infantry Adjutant and Staff Officer to assist the Commanding Officer of Infantry.

I have, &c.,

W. V. LEGGE, Colonel, Commandant  
Tasmanian Forces,



## A.

## TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE.

STATE of the Tasmanian Defence Force on 31st December, 1899.

Corps.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Surgeons.	Pay and Quarter Masters.	Chaplains.	Warrant Officers.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Privates.	Band.	Rank and File.	Total of all Ranks.	Remarks.	Cadets.	
															Officers.	Cadets.
General Staff .....	2	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...
Volunteer Staff .....	2	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Tasmanian Permanent Artillery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	11	12	...	...	...
Permanent Torpedo & Artificers .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
Launceston Artillery .....	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	4	4	6	...	66	85	...	...	...
Southern Tasmanian Artillery ...	1	2	3	1	1	...	...	6	2	...	...	67	83	...	...	...
Tasmanian Engineers .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	...	43	51	...	...	...
1st Battalion Tasmanian Infantry Regiment .....	1	6	17	1	1	...	...	3	44	14	...	475	562	...	...	...
2nd ditto ditto .....	2	9	15	2	...	2	2	3	39	22	47	480	623	...	...	50
3rd ditto ditto .....	1	4	9	1	...	1	...	2	21	9	...	328	376	...	...	...
Head Quarters Band .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	26	...	29	...	...	...
Southern Tasmanian Cadet Corps .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	133
Army Medical Corps .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	15	17	...	...	...
	11	25	46	5	3	4	9	16	122	53	73	1486	1853	...	6	183

W. V. LEGGE, Colonel, Commandant Tasmanian Forces.

## B.

FIGURE of Merit of Trained Men of the Tasmanian Infantry Regiment for the Musketry Course ending 31st December, 1899.

Battalion.	No. of men fired.	Arm.	No. of rounds per man.	Total points obtained.	Figure of merit.	Classification.			
						Marksman.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.
1st Battalion .....	169	M.H.	42	18,904	111	106	26	28	9
2nd Battalion .....	194	M.H.	42	21,159	109	100	46	37	11
3rd Battalion .....	134	M.H.	42	14,068	104	62	25	36	11

A. W. B. PERCEVAL, Captain, Staff Officer for Infantry.

## C.

*FIGURE of Merit of Recruits of the Tasmanian Infantry Regiment for the Musketry Course ending 31st December, 1899.*

Battalion.	No. of men fired.	Amm.	No. of rounds per man.	Total points obtained.	Figure of merit.	Classification.	
						1st Class.	Recruits in musketry.
1st Battalion .....	229	M.H.	28	13,955	60	116	113
2nd Battalion .....	232	M.H.	28	12,637	54	88	144
3rd Battalion .....	151	M.H.	28	8807	58	67	84

A. W. B. PERCEVAL, *Captain, Staff Officer for Infantry.*

## D.

*EFFICIENCY Return of the Tasmanian Defence Force, for the Year ending December 31st, 1899.*

CORPS.	NUMBER OF EFFICIENTS.
Launceston Artillery .....	66
Southern Tasmanian Artillery .....	63
Tasmanian Engineers .....	43
1st Battalion Infantry Regiment .....	362
2nd Battalion Infantry Regiment .....	432
3rd Battalion Infantry Regiment .....	228
GRAND TOTAL .....	1194

E. T. WALLACK, *Lieut.-Colonel, Act. A.A.-G.*

E.

TASMANIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT.

STATE on 31st December, 1899, showing Number of Efficient, and Result of Musketry Course.

(No. 45.)

Battalion.	Company.	Detachment.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Surgeons.	Quarter Master.	Warrant Officers.	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 Company or Detachment, with number of Points obtained.	Remarks.	
1st Battalion	"A".....	Headquarters ...	1	2	4	1	1	..	3	5	6	1	43	67	49	28	17	101	26	40	Sergeant Drumm ..... 139	Best shot of Battalion.	
"	"B".....	"	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	33	41	30	12	..	..	31	52	Colour-Sergeant Self..... 104		
"	Band .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	26	29	28	..	..	..	..	..	Private Hortin ..... 138		
"	Sandy Bay .....	"	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	39	43	34	15	10	110	29	52	Private Hortin ..... 138		
"	Channel.....	Dover .....	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	15	21	13	5	8	113	7	67	Private O. Owens ..... 152		
"		Little Oyster Cove .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	15	18	16	5	7	129	9	64	Colour-Sergeant Smith... 173		
"		Margate .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	21	22	12	2	15	123	7	73		Corporal Meredith ..... 155
"	Clarence.....	Bellerive .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	21	26	16	3	10	118	7	74	Colour-Sergeant Paul ... 146		
"		Sorell .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	28	30	9	1	4	110	6	90	Sergeant Peacock ..... 121		
"		Forcet .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	26	28	10	4	1	146	17	75		Colour-Sergeant Ward... 146
"		Richmond .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	22	25	17	11	6	101	19	73		Private T. Jarvis ..... 118
"	Derwent .....	Brighton .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	27	29	27	9	16	122	11	64	Private A. Paul..... 153		
"		Kempton .....	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	45	50	18	10	31	106	8	62	Private P. Johnson ..... 135		
"	Glenorchy.....	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	47	53	15	..	..	..	16	59	No marksman.		
"	Huon .....	Geeveston .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	28	28	21	4	17	96	6	56	Sargeant Lambert ..... 140		
"		Huonville .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	20	23	14	3	6	127	9	52	Private G. Stanley ..... 137		
"	Zeehan.....	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	52	60	33	28	21	109	21	70	Private J. Whitton ..... 150		
		TOTAL 1ST BATTALION.....	1	6	17	1	1	1	3	13	33	14	503	593	362	140	169	111	229	60			
2nd Battalion	"A".....	Headquarters	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	95	30	41	Captain Chapman ..... 139		
"	"B".....	"	2	4	4	..	..	3	2	..	11	8	77	160	122	86	8	129	22	37	Corporal Bain ..... 160		
"	Band .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		

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3rd Battalion	Cornwall	Fingal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	20	11	2	10	127	7	67	Private M. Curtis	149		
		St. Marys	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	18	20	16	10	4	103	13	61	Lieutnant H. J. Smith	139	
		Avoca	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	19	21	17	8	6	100	12	53	Corporal Stanley	137	
	Dorset	Scottsdale	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	2	1	25	31	17	9	11	121	12	67	Corporal Gaby	144	
		Longford	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	30	35	15	...	11	118	13	56	Private G. Drew	150	
	Esk	Cressy	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	22	24	12	4	13	99	9	54	Sergeant A. J. Lee	125	
		...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	2	1	53	59	32	19	3	120	29	50	Colour-Sergeant M <sup>c</sup> Lean	174	
	Meander	Deloraine	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	41	47	34	...	19	103	20	51	Colour-Sergeant Rock	144	
		Westbury	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	15	18	10	...	7	110	9	63	Lieutenant Drew	125	
		Chudleigh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	18	20	14	...	13	115	4	65	Private E. Keenan	143	
	Midland	Campbell Town	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	2	26	31	27	4	20	121	4	74	Lieutenant C. F. Pitt	149	
		Ross	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	1	32	38	36	9	20	108	16	67	Sergeant G. Richards	138	
		Tunbridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	22	25	17	...	17	98	5	67	Sergeant Henri	115	
	Tamar	Lefroy	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	19	23	15	13	6	103	8	74	Captain Anderson	116	
		George Town	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	19	22	16	3	4	100	12	42	Lieutenant Huxtable	114	
		Beaconsfield	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	23	26	21	6	13	91	7	68	Private J. Lyons	119	
	2ND BATTALION TOTAL		2	9	15	2	...	3	2	6	31	22	528	620	432	173	194	109	232	54		
	West Devon	Ulverstone	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	36	44	35	26	17	102	22	60	Private J. Quantrill	145
		Abbotsham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	18	20	19	13	8	88	12	53	Corporal Shaw	113	
		Forth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	12	13	5	2	1	115	5	75	Sergeant W. Neville	115	
Penguin		...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	21	26	21	16	13	116	8	63	Sergeant N. Stott	145		
Castra		...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	24	28	8	...	13	92	11	42	Private J. Smith	134	
Sulphur Creek		...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	17	19	13	8	6	108	8	74	Private T. Groom	134		
North Motton	North Motton	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	10	13	9	8	1	128	9	55	Lieutenant A. A. Sale	128		
	Sheffield	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	48	55	48	3	27	127	22	70	Lieut. T. J. Clerke	171	
Mersey	Devonport	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	31	35	21	14	9	104	15	66	Private C. Harrison	136	
	Northdown	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	18	7	2	5	84	9	31	Corporal Clarke	115		
	Latrobe	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	26	30	14	7	16	110	14	49	Sergeant Paton	179		
Wellington	Burnie	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	Somerset	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	12	14	8	5	4	86	8	53	Private G. Gale	103		
	Table Cape	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	26	28	20	11	14	77	8	54	No marksmen.			
3RD BATTALION TOTAL		1	4	9	...	...	...	1	4	18	9	328	374	228	115	134	104	151	58			
Head quarters Staff, Hobart		1	1	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		

Best shot of Battalion.

Best shot of Battalion.

Best shot of Regiment.

Formed too late for musketry course.

## F.

*BELLERIVE Camp Parade State, Hobart, 3rd April, 1899.*

Corps.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Surgeons.	Paymasters.	Quarter Masters.	Chaplains.	Warrant Officers.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Band, Buglers, & Trumpeters.	Rank and File.	Total all Ranks.
Staff.....	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	9
Staff (Volunteers).....	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	5
Permanent Artillery.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	11	12
Launceston Artillery .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	17	21
Southern Tasmanian Artillery .....	1	2	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	7	...	24	38
1st Battalion Tasmanian Infantry .....	1	5	15	1	...	1	1	3	2	21	22	205	277
2nd Battalion Tasmanian Infantry.....	2	6	9	...	1	1	...	2	3	11	36	147	218
3rd Battalion Tasmanian Infantry.....	1	2	5	1	...	...	...	...	2	11	6	116	144
Army Medical Corps .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	17	19
	9	17	32	4	1	3	2	10	10	52	66	537	743

E. T. WALLACK, *Lieut.-Colonel, Act. A.A.-G.*

## G.

*SYNOPSIS of Battery Practice Reports, Launceston Artillery, 1899.*

Nature of Gun.	Total No. of Rounds.	Description.		Nature of Fuse.		Result.		
		Com.	Shrap.	Percussion.	Time.	On Target.	(Common.) No. bursting more than 20 yds. "over," or more than 10 yds. "short."	(Shrapnel.) No. bursting more than 30 yds. "short," and more than 30 ft. "above Plane."
2.5' R.M.L. ....	25	15	10	Small	15 secs.	18	2	5
12-pr. B.L. ....	20	5	15	Small	T. and P. (short)	16	Nil.	4
40-pr. B.L. ....	8	5	3	Bolt	T. and P. (medium)	3	1	4

GEO. E. HARRAP, *Captain and Brevet-Major, Commanding Launceston Artillery.*WALTER CROFT, *Capt., L.A., Officer Commanding Camp at Ross, Nov. 1899.*

## H.

*SYNOPSIS of Battery Practice Reports Field Guns, 1899, S.T. Artillery.*

Nature of Guns.	Description.		Total No. of Rounds.	Fuses.		Result.		
	Com.	Shrap.		Percussion.	Time.	On Target.	(Common.) No. bursting more than 20 yds. "over," or more than 10 yds. "short."	(Shrapnel.) No. bursting more than 30 yds. "short," and more than 30 ft. "above Plane."
12-pr. B.L. Armstrong	15	10	25	Bolt	T. & P. Small Armstrong.	12	1	12

T. M. EVANS, *Lt.-Col. (Brevet), Commanding S.T. Artillery*