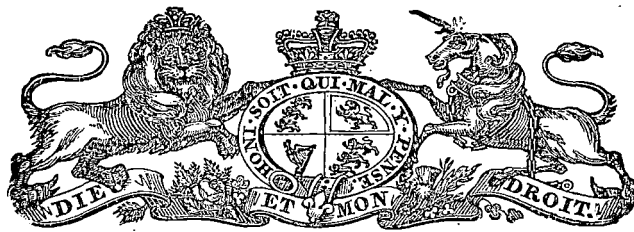


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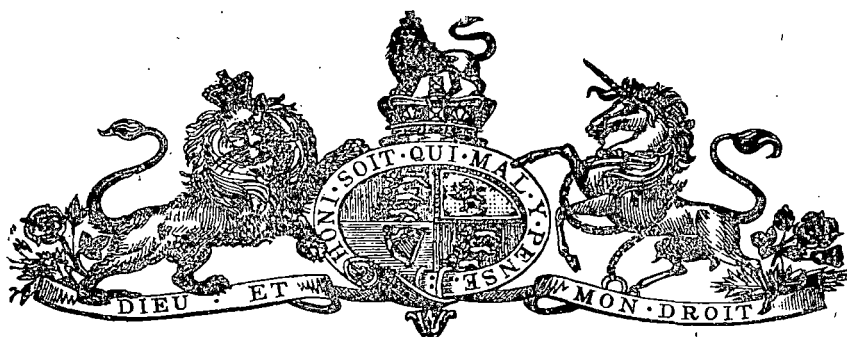
1890.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE :

REPORT BY ACTING COMMANDANT.

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



TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE.

REPORT BY THE ACTING COMMANDANT.

Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 22nd July, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the Annual Report.

DEFENCES.

Derwent.—Since the last Report by Colonel Legge, dated 24th July, 1890, two emplacements have been made for the 6-pr. Q.F. guns,—one in the Alexandra Redoubt, and the other in the Kangaroo Bluff Battery. Both guns have been mounted, and ten rounds fired from each.

New elevating gear has been added to the second 7-inch gun in the Alexandra Battery, and works well.

The electric search-light at the Alexandra Battery has been installed.

A communicating gallery has been constructed between the electric light casemate and the battery. To make it complete, the gallery should be continued through the parapet.

No provision has yet been made for the entanglement, land mines, and machine guns recommended in the Commandant's previous reports, or for the covered way between the Alexandra Redoubt and the main work.

The 5-inch gun on Vavasseur carriage has been mounted in the Queen's Battery.

In the Kangaroo Bluff Battery the concrete emplacements require new surfaces.

Telephonic communication with the three batteries has been completed.

The services of a torpedo expert, who will in addition perform the duties of second artificer, is much needed.

The torpedo boat and Whitehead torpedoes are in good order.

In the absence of an expert it is not possible to exercise the boat with the Whitehead torpedoes.

The submarine mining service is being improved year by year.

Tamar.—Nothing has yet been done for the defence of the Tamar. The 64-pr. is in Launceston. The land for the proposed battery at Brown's Bluff has been purchased. Some timber for the construction has been lying on the banks of the river for some years, and is gradually disappearing. The necessity for the construction of this battery has been frequently brought to notice. It is required as an inner defence, and for the protection of the mine-field, also as a practice battery for the Launceston Artillery.

General.—Two ammunition and two water-carts have been completed, and were used at the last camp of exercise.

Transport wagons for Commissariat are required.

I desire to draw particular attention to the recommendations in last year's report for gradually accumulating a permanent reserve of ammunition of at least 300 rounds per rifle, and 100 rounds per gun.

PERMANENT ARTILLERY.

The conduct of this corps has been very good. Two inspections have been held, and everything found satisfactory.

All the non-commissioned officers (with the exception of one bombardier) have passed examinations in gunnery, making up ammunition, &c.

The men are drilled at the guns on every possible occasion; but the furnishing of the Government House guard, and the various fatigue duties in connection with batteries, armaments, Military Store and Torpedo Departments, take up a great part of the time.

It is the custom in the Imperial service to strike off each battery and company from all duty from four to eight weeks, to undergo an annual course of training. With a view to perfecting the men in the various duties of artillerymen, and to make them expert in the working of the various type of guns in the batteries, I strongly recommend this system should be adopted. It would be necessary to arrange for the guard to be furnished by the police during the period of training, as is now done when the Permanent Artillery are employed at the Camp of Exercise.

Ten rounds 64-pr. M.L., and eight rounds 80-pr. M.L. plugged shell were fired at a moving target; twelve rounds 12-pr. B.L., two rounds 5-inch B.L.H.P., four rounds 6-inch B.L., and twenty-two rounds 6-pr. Q.F. were fired at stationary targets, with satisfactory results. Twenty-two men completed the annual course of musketry; figure of merit, 134.13; classification very good.

LAUNCESTON ARTILLERY.

The strength of this Corps is at present 78; Cadets, 13.

Inspections were held on 7th October, and 9th December, 1889, 19th May and 23rd June, 1890. The attendance on each occasion was excellent, the turn-out smart, and the drill good. The annual practice with the two 5-inch R.M.L. guns was carried out at George Town. On Saturday, the 9th November, an advance party, consisting of Sergt.-Major Martini and ten men, with guns, ammunition, and camp equipment, proceeded to George Town in s.s. *Centennial*, and encamped there.

At 7 A.M. on Sunday, the 10th instant, the remainder of the battery, under command of Major Collins, embarked on board the tug *Wybia* and proceeded to Kelso Bay; landed a party there to assist the advance party in completing the earthwork to be fired at. On work being finished, the men re-embarked, and the steamer proceeded to George Town. The men were landed, and marched to camp. A guard was mounted, and all duties regularly carried out.

On the 11th the practice was carried out. Forty rounds were fired—30 common shell, 10 shrapnell. Range—Common shell, 2000 yards, at an earthwork; shrapnell, 1700 yards, at floating target. The result was very satisfactory, especially with the common shell.

At 4 o'clock P.M. the men re-embarked in the *Wybia*, arriving at Launceston at 7.30 P.M. Great credit is due to the Commanding Officer, officers, N.C., officers and men for the sacrifice of time and money annually made by them to carry out this practice.

The expense of rationing the men is borne entirely by the officers.

The practice with the 40-prs. was carried out at the Camp of Exercise.

A portion of the equipment for the two field-guns ordered for this Corps has been received, and it is hoped the guns will shortly arrive.

I trust the recommendations for a paid annual training for this Corps may be carried out next year.

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN ARTILLERY.

The strength of this Corps at present is 77, being 145 under the establishment. I regret that very few suitable recruits are presenting themselves for enrolment.

Inspections were held on the 14th October and 20th December, 1889, and on the 24th March and 11th July, 1890. The musters were fair, and the drill good; the turn-out was smart.

The annual course of training commenced on the 3rd February and terminated on the 22nd March, 1890. Sixty-three men went through the whole training. The results were satisfactory. The men were employed at gun-drill in the Alexandra and Kangaroo Bluff Batteries. A longer training is required to make the Corps thoroughly reliable for war.

The two field-guns have been hoisted on seven occasions (exclusive of camp).

The practice ammunition was expended as follows:—25 rounds 32-pr. howitzer, and 10 rounds 64-pr. at moving targets, 40 rounds 8-inch smooth bore, 5 rounds 80-pr. R.M.L., 4 rounds 7-inch R.M.L., 2 rounds 8-inch R.M.L., 2 rounds 6-in B.L.H.P., and 40 rounds 12-pr. at stationary targets. The results were satisfactory. Seventeen men passed through the annual musketry course as a voluntary duty. Figure of merit, 124.52. Classification very good. On 9th September, 1889, Lieutenants Castray and Lewis were promoted provisional Captains. On the 27th January, 1890, Captain Hood was placed on the Unattached List.

TORPEDO CORPS.

Strength at present, 68.

Inspections were held on the 17th October, 1889, and on the 18th February, 1890. On both occasions the attendance was good.

The annual training commenced on the 4th January, 1890, and terminated on the 18th February, 1890. The course was carried out by the Torpedo Director, on the same lines as last year. The daylight work on Saturday afternoons was chiefly devoted to laying extempore mines on the E.C. system, which were fired from the test-room on shore; largest charge, 50 lbs.

A great deal of work of a permanent character was also carried out during the training; viz.—loading mines to complete equipments, and preparing them for use when required.

Sixty-five of all ranks passed through the training.

Eighteen trained men went through a voluntary course of musketry. Figure of merit 131.27. Classification very good. Four men fired the recruits' course. Figure of merit, 88.25. Classification moderate.

TASMANIAN RIFLE REGIMENT.

The strength of this regiment is at present 149.

I am glad to report that since the commencement of this year recruiting has been most satisfactory; 60 men have joined. The *esprit-de-corps* has been revived, and all ranks are devoting their energy to the efficiency of the regiment.

Inspections were held on the 21st October and 16th December, 1889, and on the 24th March and 8th July, 1890.

The drill of this corps has greatly improved since the camp of exercise.

Forty-eight trained men completed the annual course of musketry; figure of merit 124. Classification very good. Recruits' course, 5 men; figure of merit, 100.40. Classification very good.

The Cadet Corps attached to this regiment was disbanded on the 31st October, 1889.

Major O'Boyle was placed on the Retired List, with the honorary rank of Lieut.-Colonel, on the 27th January, 1890.

Captain Reid, the next senior officer, assumed the command of the regiment. I have much pleasure in stating that he has given every satisfaction, and I have recommended his provisional promotion to the rank of Major.

Lieutenants J. Penny and E. P. Wilson were appointed provisional Captains on the 31st March, 1890.

It is absolutely necessary that the Rifle Regiments should have a daylight training. It is perfectly impossible with night drills and the three days' instruction in camp that a proper efficiency can be arrived at. In the Imperial Service each Company is struck off all duty for a period of four weeks in each year for military training (*vide* section 19, pages 495 to 499, Infantry Drill, 1889), and in addition have daylight drills all the year round. The necessity for paid daylight parades has been recognised in the other Australian Colonies, and the Tasmanian first-line of defence can never be properly trained until this system is adopted.

LAUNCESTON RIFLE REGIMENT.

Present strength of this Corps, including the Band, is 214. This is, however, a paper strength, as upwards of 40 men are on the roll who cannot possibly be efficient this year. The Commanding Officer has been directed to forward a Return with a view to their being struck off.

Forty-three recruits have joined since the commencement of the year.

Inspections were held on 7th October and 9th December, 1889, and 19th May and 16th June, 1890.

The drill of the Corps is good. The attendance since the commencement of this year has been more satisfactory; this is, no doubt, attributable to the Camp of Exercise.

As stated in my report on the Tasmanian Rifle Regiment, proper efficiency cannot be obtained until daylight parades are instituted.

Forty-one trained men and nine recruits completed the annual course of musketry. Figure of merit—Trained men, 107.09; recruits, 75.55. Classification moderate.

The honorary rank of Captain was granted to Quartermaster Kirkland on the 22nd June, 1890.

The Cadet Corps numbers 54. The lads have latterly improved much in their drill, and the attendance has been better.

AUXILIARY FORCE.

On the 23rd December, 1889, Government Notice No. 359 repealed the Regulations for Country Rifle Clubs, and substituted Regulations made under the provisions of 53 Vict. No. 36, Section 7, for the constitution of the Auxiliary Force.

The enrolment has been a success; in fact, the difficulty is to keep the Force within the numbers sanctioned by Parliament, viz., 1500 men.

The Force is divided into 17 companies, with detachments in 48 places. (Return of strength of each Company from latest returns received attached.)

To be classed as an efficient every member must attend 14 drills, and complete the prescribed course of musketry.

The whole Force is now armed with the Martini-Henry Rifle. In January, 1890, an additional Instructor was appointed, which has enabled me to make more satisfactory arrangements for frequent visits.

Sergeant-Major Rafferty is in charge of the North-west District; Sergeant-Major Anderson of the North-east and Midland Districts; Sergeant-Majors Alderton and Welsh (in addition to their other duties) visit all detachments in the vicinity of Hobart and Launceston respectively.

The weak point still in the Force is the want of trained officers and non-commissioned officers.

A class of instruction for officers and non-commissioned officers was formed at Hobart on the 24th February, and Major Wallack placed in charge (Report attached). Eighteen officers and 25 non-commissioned officers attended the class, but in some instances only remained a few days. I beg to recommend that in future no one should be allowed to join the class after the first week, and every person making application for permission to join the class must bind himself to remain for at least seven days.

February and March are not good months for holding the class, as many men are engaged harvesting. In my opinion the months of September and October would be more suitable.

As it is of vital importance to have, as soon as possible, properly trained officers and non-commissioned officers, I strongly recommend that a class be formed in October, and not wait until 1891.

Classes might be held simultaneously at Hobart and Launceston. The only additional expense would be in the arrangements for the messing of the non-commissioned officers in Launceston (in Hobart this is done by the Permanent Artillery), but this would be more than covered by the savings of railway fares on the Main Line Railway.

Great credit is due to the Force for their voluntary attendance at the camp of exercise at Scone. 501 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men were present. The physique of the men was excellent. They looked well in their new uniforms, and were most attentive at all parades and drills, and eager to master the details of camp duties. But here, again, the want of training of officers and non-commissioned officers was a great drawback, and until they become well acquainted with their duties the Force never can be efficient.

I should very much like to see the same system adopted here as in Victoria, viz., permitting men desirous of doing so remaining two extra days in camp. It would not add much to the expense, and would relieve the demand for transport on the Easter Monday.

As attendance at drill now forms a part of the efficiency, provision will have to be made for the hire of a suitable room at each place.

During the year 1889, 1051 members of Country Rifle Clubs completed the prescribed course of musketry, 728 with the Martini-Henry Rifle, and 323 with the Snider Rifle.

MOUNTED RIFLES.

The necessity for organising a Company of Mounted Rifles, and their duties, has been brought prominently to notice in the Commandant's Report for 1889. It is therefore unnecessary for me to say anything more in the matter, except that I entirely agree with Colonel Legge, and deprecate any further delay in the formation of a company.

The following table shows the strength of the Force on the 1st July, 1890:—

	<i>Number of all Ranks.</i>
Launceston Artillery	78
Southern Tasmanian Artillery	77
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps	68
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment	149
Launceston Rifle Regiment, with Band	214
Garrison Band	19
Total	605
Permanent Artillery	27
Permanent Torpedo	1
General Staff and Instructors	7
Total	640
Auxiliary Force	1421
Grand Total	2061
<i>Cadets.</i>	
Launceston Artillery	13
Launceston Rifle Regiment	53
Total	66

The following are the Efficient for the year ending 31st December, 1890 :—

Launceston Artillery	66
Southern Tasmanian Artillery	64
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps.....	59
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment	44
Launceston Rifle Regiment	74
Garrison Band.....	22
Total.....	<u>329</u>

Cadets.

Tasmanian Rifle Regiment	26
Launceston Rifle Regiment	21
	<u>47</u>

Country Rifle Clubs completed Annual Course of Musketry 1051

GENERAL.

The Northern Division was inspected at Launceston by Major-General Edwards, C.B.R.E., on the 21st September, 1889. Total of all ranks on parade, 535, including 313 Members of Country Rifle Clubs. The inspection of the Southern Division was held at Hobart on the 25th September. Total of all ranks on parade, 366, including 85 members of Country Rifle Clubs. The usual Queen's Birthday parades were held at Hobart and Launceston on the 26th May, 1890. At Hobart, 304 of all ranks were present, and at Launceston, 245.

Church parades were held at Hobart and Launceston on the 25th May, 1890. Garrison parades have been held at Hobart and Launceston throughout the year, and lectures given on tactics, drill, and technical subjects.

The number of efficient for the year 1889 is very small. This can be accounted for by the discontinuance of the Camp of Exercise, and the issue of an Order increasing the number of evening drills. The holding of the Camp of Exercise this year, and a reduction in the number of night drills, has caused a re-action, and there is every prospect of a very great increase in the number of efficient for the year 1890.

Captain Wallack was promoted to the rank of Major on the 31st March, 1890. My especial thanks are due to this officer for his exertions in carrying out the class of instruction for officers and non-commissioned officers Auxiliary Force.

Both Major Wallack and Captain Mathieson are zealous in the performance of their duties.

SCHOOL CADET CORPS.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the Hutchins' School Cadet Corps (which at the date of the last Annual Report was practically disbanded) has been reformed. Present strength, 39. The Corps was present at the Church parade on the 25th May, and the Queen's Birthday Review on the 26th.

TASMANIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION RIFLE RANGES.

No Prize Meeting has been held since Easter, 1889. It is proposed to hold one at Hobart before the end of the year.

The proposal to send a team to Queensland to compete at the Intercolonial match in September is under consideration. The reduction of the Government subsidy this year to £150 is greatly to be regretted. Unless it is increased it will not be possible for the Association to send teams to other Colonies, and also to hold an annual prize meeting, and offer prizes of sufficient value to induce members from any distance to take part.

The Hobart Rifle Range has been purchased, but much inconvenience is caused by the late tenant being permitted to live in the cottage. I trust that arrangements will be made for his early removal. The cottage is required for the Government Marker's residence.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

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

The Hon. the Minister of Defence.

Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 19th June, 1890.

SIR,

IN accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to submit the following Report on the School of Instruction for Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of the Auxiliary Force, which was held during part of the months of February and March of this year.

The School was, by Order of the Commandant dated February 24th, placed under the immediate orders of myself.

The hours of parade were 7 to 8 A.M., 10 A.M. to 12 P.M., and 2.30 P.M. to 4.30 P.M.

Tent accommodation was supplied for those officers who desired to live in barracks, and for all the non-commissioned officers, who were also messed in barracks, the cooking being done by one of the Permanent Artillery.

The course of instruction I adopted was similar to that carried out in the schools of instruction at Aldershot and Wellington Barracks, London. The school opened on February 24th, when three officers and eight non-commissioned officers joined. Others kept coming in till almost the end of the course; this naturally rendered the instruction extremely difficult, and I would strongly recommend that at the next school no one be allowed to join after the end of the first week. Both officers and non-coms. attended for various periods, such as three days, one week, ten days, fourteen days, or three weeks. Practically speaking, it is useless for anyone to attend for less than a week. During the twenty-one days the school lasted the Commandant, Colonel W. V. Legge, gave several lectures on Fire Discipline, Outposts, and the Attack, and once had the school at the Range at Sandy Bay and put them through the Attack with blank ammunition; I gave lectures on Musketry and Drill. Every endeavour was made to impart a good knowledge to all ranks of the duties of guides and markers in company drill and in extended order; but as many who attended hardly knew squad drill, nearly the whole of the ABC of drill had to be gone over. Those who were able to attend for ten days and longer were, of course, at a great advantage, and there was a most marked improvement, not only in their steadiness on parade, but in the manner they themselves were able to impart instruction. The total number of officers who passed through the school was eighteen, and of non-commissioned officers twenty-five.

In conclusion, I may add that all ranks were shown as much of camp and barrack life as possible, and that the course included instruction in squad drill, including extended order; company drill, including skirmishing, extended order, and the attack; the manual and firing exercises, and the theoretical principles of musketry. The school was closed on the 17th March.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

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

The Acting Commandant.

STRENGTH and Distribution of Auxiliary Force, 1st July, 1890.

COMPANY.	WHERE STATIONED.	STRENGTH.								REMARKS.	
		Captains.	Lieutenant.	Colour-Sergeant.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Buglers.	Privates.	Total of Detachments.		Total of Company.
Dorset	Scottsdale	1	...	1	1	2	1	46	52	143	Detachment affiliated.
	Moorina	...	1	...	1	1	1	18	22		
	Derby	...	1	...	2	1	1	64	69		
Mersey	Devonport W.	1	1	2	1	34	39	87	
	Devonport E.	1	...	...	1	1	...	14	17
	Don	...	1	...	2	1	1	26	31		
Midland	Campbell Town	1	1	1	1	1	2	38	45	93	
	Ross	...	1	...	2	2	1	30	36		
	Cleveland	...	...	...	1	1	...	10	12
West Devon	Swansea	1	1	1	...	14	17	17	
	Ulverstone	1	...	1	2	2	1	28	35		
	Forth	...	1	...	1	1	1	20	24		
Clyde	Penguin	...	1	...	1	1	1	22	26	85	
	Bothwell	1	1	1	2	2	1	41	49		
	Hollow Tree	...	1	...	1	1	...	14	17		
Channel	Little Oyster Cove	1	1	1	2	2	...	19	26	86	
	Margate }	...	1	...	2	3	2	52	60		
	Kingston }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
East Devon.....	Latrobe	1	1	1	...	20	23	63	
	Northdown	...	1	...	1	1	...	14	17		
	Sheffield	...	1	...	2	1	...	19	23		
South Channel..	Dóver	1	1	...	2	2	1	20	27	49	
	Hastings	...	1	...	2	2	...	17	22		
	Wellington	Burnie	1	...	1	2	1	1	16			22
Wellington	Somerset	...	1	...	1	1	...	15	18	62	
	Table Cape	...	1	...	1	1	...	19	22		
	Stanley	...	1	...	2	2	1	47	53		
Tamar	Lefroy	1	...	1	2	2	1	52	59	53	
	Beaconsfield	...	1	...	...	1	1	27	30
	George Town	...	1	...	1	1	1	21	25		
Esk	Longford	1	...	1	2	1	1	19	25	45	
	Carrick	...	...	...	1	1	...	18	20
	Cornwall	Fingal	1	...	1	1	2	1	21		27
Cornwall	Avoca	...	1	...	1	1	1	23	27	82	
	St. Mary's	...	...	...	2	1	1	24	28
	Huon	Geeveston	1	1	1	2	2	1	30		38
Huon	Franklin	...	1	...	2	2	...	13	18	56	
	Meander	Deloraine	1	1	1	2	2	...	23		30
	Westbury	...	1	...	1	1	...	31	34		
Meander	Chudleigh	1	1	...	12	14	78	
	Derwent	New Norfolk	1	1	1	2	3	1	48		57
	Brighton	...	1	...	2	1	...	17	21		
Derwent	Ouse	1	19	20	98	
	Portland	St. Helen's	1	1	1	2	2	1	23		31
	Gould's Country	...	...	...	1	1	...	12	14
Portland	Blue Tier	...	1	1	...	23	25	70	
	Somerset	Oatlands	1	1	1	2	2	...	48		55
	Tunnack	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	19
TOTALS.....		17	30	16	66	65	27	1200	1421	1421	

A. H. WARNER, *Lieut.-Colonel, Commanding Auxiliary Force.*