

(No. 40.)



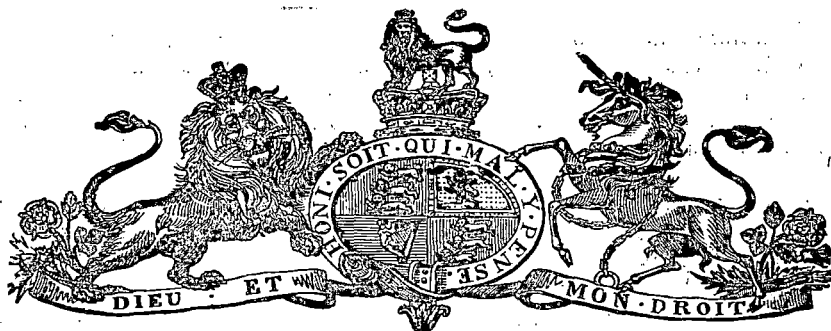
1888.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE:

REPORT BY COMMANDANT.

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



TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE.

REPORT BY COMMANDANT.

Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 30th June, 1888.

DEFENCES.

SIR,

Land Defences.—Progress is being made towards the completion of the armament of the batteries on the Derwent, and steps are being taken to commence the Brown's Bluff Battery on the Tamar.

As regards the Alexandra Battery, the pivot and accessory gear, together with the racers, for the 5-inch B.L. guns on H.P. travelling carriages, have arrived, and have been placed in position, as also the emplacement for the gun in the redoubt constructed.

The gun-carriage, and also a spare pivot and mountings, are shortly expected, and it is then the intention to place the pivot in position and construct the second emplacement, so that the gun may be fought in two positions.

It is right to mention that the H.P. travelling-carriage is entirely new, adopted for Tasmania, with the concurrence of the Government, by myself, after conferring with Major-General Stewart, who is the author of the system. The Tasmanian gun and carriage have just been tried at Sir William Armstrong's range with very satisfactory results; and so much interest was taken in the trial that "two officers from the Office of the Director of Artillery and two members of the Ordnance Committee were especially despatched to attend;" and four similar carriages are to be ordered for 5in. B.L. guns for Fort Effort, Plymouth.

The 6-pr. Nordenfeldt gun for the redoubt has been ordered from England.

A section of a wire entanglement intended to surround the battery was erected at Easter. This obstruction is much required, and funds have been asked for to complete it at once.

Two more rifle-calibre machine-guns are badly wanted for the earthwork of this fortification.

Steel shields are also required for the 6-inch B.L. guns. These were not ordered by me in 1883, as funds were not available; but I have included them this year in the list of requirements submitted for the strengthening of the defences. All the H.P. guns on the mainland are provided with them.

A difficulty was experienced with the by-pass valves of the 6-inch guns, owing to the eating away of the cast-steel seating by particles of glycerine. The valves have been re-seated here, and a report made of the work done, which has been highly commended by Major-General Stewart, R.E. The alterations were carried out by the naval artificer, with an employé of Messrs. Davidson & Brown. The cylinders have now been filled with soap crystals and water, and the machinery works well.

It is intended shortly, if money is granted, to apply the system of firing by "graduated arc and quadrant elevation" to the 6-inch B.L. guns.

A small shop, erected in a position secure from hostile fire, is required in the battery, where repairs can be effected.

In order to complete this fortification and make it as tenable as possible, the redoubt should be connected with the earthwork by a gallery and caponier; and there should also be a gallery from the present entrance to the earthwork down to the battery, and a small shelter, as a rallying position, provided in connection with this gallery. The cost of these works would be about £500. I have entered this item in my schedule.

Furthermore, a great deal requires to be done in the environs of the fortification to strengthen it as the key of the defence of the Derwent ought to be. Small portions of land should be purchased as follows:—On the rise behind the battery, for an observatory; on the saddle, for an intrenched position; and at Crayfish Point for another entrenched position, which was recommended by the Defence Committee last year. *On no account should any building be allowed on the rise in the rear of the battery, as it will interfere materially with the strength of the fortification.*

As money is likely to be granted this Session for the electric light, this will be at once proceeded with. A survey of the position and land required has been made and forwarded to you. This light is badly required.

For the Kangaroo Bluff Battery a 6-pr. Nordenfeldt gun has been ordered, which will add very materially to the defence of the gorge, on which there are also mountings for a rifle-calibre Nordenfeldt, and for which a shield is about to be provided.

The 80-pr. guns have been fitted with service pattern elevating-screws.

Queen's Battery.—A platform has been made for the dismounted 64-pr. in the Queen's Battery, and a carriage is now being constructed for the gun, which will be mounted shortly.

A long-range modern type B.L. gun is much required for this battery, and should be mounted in the south corner to co-operate with the guns in the other two forts. I have not submitted a sum for this purpose in the loan asked for this year, on account of other *matériel* required for the forts, but would strongly recommend the ordering of the gun all the same.

The electric light is in excellent order, and is run once a quarter for my inspection. An alteration in the traversing arrangement of the lamp is about to be carried out, which will facilitate the working of the light.

Defences of the Tamar.

But little progress has been made with the defences of the North.

In accordance with instructions received, I recently supplied plans of details for the Brown's Bluff Battery, and they have been submitted to the Inspector of Works in the North in order that an estimate of costs may be furnished. This has not yet been done. The mines are still in Hobart awaiting the construction of the battery.

The gun intended for the battery, with its war equipment, is at the drill-yard in Launceston, and is used for drill purposes.

As this work is required for a practice battery in peace time, as well as an *inner* defensive position in time of war, it is to be hoped that it will be carried out at an early date.

Defences generally.

The Defence Committee, assembled at the beginning of last year by the late Treasurer, in accordance with instructions received in a recent Memorandum from Home, closed their labours at the end of the year. The long delay occurred, as the Committee explained in their last Report, first, through the death of Captain Stanley, one of the members, and, secondly, owing to the desire of the Committee to know the opinion of the Home Authorities on their recommendation for the completion of the defences of the Derwent and Tamar.

The final Report of the Committee dealt with the defence of the N.W. Coast ports and the mobilization of the Country Rifle Corps in that district. I am preparing plans of the reconnaissance made last year of the ports. Some few of the recommendations of the Committee are, I am glad to say, in a fair way of being carried out, and it is to be hoped that the Government will not lose sight of other important points in the Report.

In connection with proposals for the better defence of the ports, it is my duty to call attention here to a point which has hitherto been dealt with in reports of a confidential nature only: I refer to a proper system of signal stations. At present a hostile vessel could enter the Derwent almost before her approach could be properly signalled. There is but one station—Mount Nelson—and that is not far enough to the front.

The S.E. Cape station should be at once put in order, the wire repaired, and arrangements made to occupy the station from the nearest settlement—Recherche. There should be a signal station on Cape Raoul and one on Cape Frederick Henry—points which are only 16 sea miles apart, and from which a vessel would be seen some considerable distance from the entrance to Storm Bay. The first-named could be connected with the Carnarvon wire, and the second with the Pearson's Point station by cable and wire, in conjunction with the proposed station at the Quarantine Ground, Barnes' Bay. A third station could be erected on Maria Island, connected by telephone wire with the township, from which a message could be sent across by steamer to Spring Bay before a vessel could make Cape Pillar.

These three stations, in connection with that already partially provided for at South-East Cape, would form a complete system for the defence of the ports. Added to this, I take for granted, is the instruction in flashing signals of the officials at the Derwent Lighthouse and Pearson's Point, recommended by the Defence Committee last year.

Should the finances of the Colony improve, my earnest hope is that the battery I have so long recommended on Jane Point may be undertaken, and the serious question of "distant bombardment" satisfactorily disposed of.

Naval Defences.

The torpedo boat has had her Whitehead gear fitted since my last report; it works well, and some very satisfactory practice was made with the Whiteheads in April, the Permanent Artillery working the gear. The boat is in excellent order now, and is as serviceable as any second-class boat fitted with similar gear. She has, however, no crew to work her torpedoes, for which purpose trained and resolute men are required.

An opportunity now occurs to obtain the second torpedo boat recommended in my former reports. The "Vidette" boat, built by Messrs. Yarrow & Co., and which has proved a great success, would be evidently suited for the Derwent, and, in combination with the present boat, would prove a powerful factor in the defence of the port. I call attention to this matter in reference to the documents recently forwarded to me from the Military Adviser through the Government of the Colony.

DEFENCE FORCES.

Permanent Artillery.

This corps is now within one of the establishment. The men are well behaved, and the discipline and *esprit de corps* good. Two undesirable characters were dismissed in February, and a tendency to crime thereby checked.

Court-martials were held on two men in September last for attempting to desert.

The men have been through courses of drill at all the guns in the Artillery "District" of Hobart, and during the recent training of the S.T. Artillery two non-commissioned officers were furnished to assist in the instruction of the Volunteers.

Fifteen rounds of S.B. 8-inch ammunition have been fired as "elementary" practice, as also five rounds of the 64-pr. ammunition in carrying out experiments for Mr. Moir, of Hobart.

Twenty-three men have passed through the authorised musketry course as a voluntary duty, and the shooting was very good. The average and classification will be found in the Appendix.

The Artillery "District" work in the Derwent Forts is very heavy for such a small number of men. The armament in two of the forts being of modern type, with machinery and complicated accessories, requires much supervision and working, and the work is consequently as heavy as that which a battery of Royal Artillery has in some commands. Besides this, the men have frequently to be employed in the Torpedo Department, and there are likewise frequent "fatigues" at the Military Store.

The guard at the Magazine has been re-established since the 17th of last month, and is furnished by the Permanent Artillery, taking eight, including old and new guard, off duty every morning. To furnish it, and carry out the district work properly, combined with the large amount of drill necessary for the training of the men, the establishment should be increased to 30.

The Sergeant-Major of the corps, a valuable non-commissioned officer, I regret to say, died on the 28th October last, of consumption. His place was taken for the time being by the next senior non-commissioned officer, Sergeant Goucher, who performed the duties of Sergeant-Major and Acting Master Gunner very creditably.

On the 4th May, the new Instructor and Sergeant-Major, Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Robertson, R.A., arrived, and at once took up his duties. He is a high-class non-commissioned officer, and gives every satisfaction.

The Permanent Artillery is under the command of Captain Wallack, who has acquired a creditable amount of knowledge as an Artillery Officer. It is owing to his painstaking rule that the corps is as smart as it is.

Launceston Artillery.

This corps is up to its full "active" establishment of 82. The strength at my last inspection was 92, being eight Reserve men short of the total establishment of 100.

Inspections were held on the 19th September and 19th December, 1887, and on the 5th March and 4th June, 1888, at all of which there were good musters. The drill of the corps is "very good," both as regards artillery and infantry exercises. Both officers and men knew their work well. There is a keen *esprit de corps* in the Launceston Artillery.

Sixty rounds of 40-pr. and 7-pr. ammunition have been allotted to the corps for practice this year. The 7-pr. practice has been carried out at the camp, but the 40-pr. is retained for floating target on the Tamar when an opportunity can be taken for it. The non-commissioned officers and men labour under a serious disadvantage in not having a garrison gun mounted for annual practice; and until the Brown's Bluff Battery is constructed the 64-pr. M.L.R. gun intended for this purpose must remain in the drill-yard.

56 men have passed through the musketry course as a voluntary duty. The shooting is given in a Table in the Appendix.

Southern Tasmanian Artillery.

This corps, which is still under the able command of Major Evans, has made satisfactory progress during the last year, though it is not nearly up to the establishment. The total of all ranks at present is 97. A number of time-expired men have been discharged recently, and their places have not yet been filled up.

Inspections were held on the 26th September, 9th December, 1887, and on the 26th March and 20th May, 1888. At the two latter there were large musters. The gun drill of this corps is "very good," and the infantry drill "good." The officers are well up in their work, and the senior non-commissioned officers are thoroughly efficient as gunners.

Lieutenants Castray and Lewis passed creditable examinations in September last, and were confirmed in their appointments.

In July last the corps went through a short course of 8-inch M.L.R. drill at night parades in the Kangaroo Bluff Battery. Permanent detachments were selected with a view of serving the guns more efficiently in war time. The attendance, however, was irregular, the winter nights militating against it.

During the last Session of Parliament, money was voted to pay the corps for a course of drill at the heavy guns in the Kangaroo Bluff and Alexandra Batteries. It commenced on the 2nd March and ended on the 30th April. The men were called out by Proclamation to serve under the Army Act. Sixty-one were passed through the course, which consisted of 46 hours. The result of this training was very satisfactory, the men acquiring considerable proficiency in working the heavy guns in both batteries.

It is to be hoped that this course will be made annual by vote of Parliament, for constant night drill at these distant batteries is not practicable, and the only means of imparting the necessary instruction is to put the men through a course the *attendance at which is compulsory*.

110 rounds of ammunition have been allotted to the corps for annual practice. Elementary practice for recruits was carried out on the 10th of last month, and service practice for officers and men, at a moving target of the Hong Kong pattern, on the 16th and 24th instant. This is the new target adopted for "moving" practice in the Imperial service, and I introduced it at once at this station. The firing was on the whole creditable, the chief errors being in elevation. The remainder of the practice has yet to be carried out.

Fifteen members of the corps passed through the musketry course as a voluntary duty under the Musketry Instructor, Captain Wallack, the shooting being classified as "very good."

Torpedo Corps.

This corps is now 13 below its establishment of 75, the total strength being, at present, 62. The discharges which have taken place recently are owing to men having had to leave Hobart in search of work, some having gone to the other Colonies.

Inspections were held on the 15th December, 1887, and 1st March, 1888. The men always present a smart appearance on parade, and their infantry drill is as good as can be expected from a corp whose duties are technical, and which does not exercise, as a rule, with other troops; on garrison parades the "march past" of this corps is always good.

The annual training commenced on the 5th of January and ended on the 3rd March. The course of instruction under the torpedo director, Captain Mathieson, was a thoroughly practical one. On three occasions the men were exercised in firing small charges laid out in the river, and, subsequently, on the 10th and 25th February and 3rd March large charges were fired by "bumping," as illustrative of the E.C. system of submarine mining. A good deal was done towards the improvement of the war "plant," and, before the training was completed, everything was left in order for active service. Sixty-two of all ranks passed through the course.

A detachment of the corps did good service at Easter in the erection of a portion of the wire entanglement for the protection of the Alexandra Battery and in the preparation of a temporary jetty for the landing of the troops taking part in the manoeuvres.

A keen interest in musketry is taken by the members of this corps; although the course is a voluntary one, 39 passed through it under the instruction of Captain Wallack, assisted by Sergeant-Major Hardy, R.E., and the proportion of marksmen is larger than in any other corps.

Tasmanian Rifle Regiment.

This regiment is considerably below its establishment, the strength now being 161.

The abolition of pay for camp this year worked much harm by creating dissatisfaction and stopping recruiting at the most favourable time of the year on which I depend for filling up the ranks. The same good results were looked forward to at the beginning of the year which were apparent at Launceston last year, when the camp was held in the vicinity of the town, and thus considerably popularised. Had pay been granted, the camp would have been equally popular this year at Hobart, and the Rifle Regiment would have filled up, while the men, enrolled for three years, would have been an acquisition to the defence of the country.

A regimental Cadet Corps has been established, and works very satisfactorily; the lads have acquitted themselves very creditably in the short time they have been enrolled. The corps is commanded by Lieut. Reynolds, who has spared no pains in training the lads and enforcing discipline, so that it will prove a valuable source for recruits for the regiment.

Inspections were held on the 12th September, 1887, and the 21st May and 18th June, 1888. The regiment paraded for inspection on the 12th December, but the muster was so small that I dismissed the parade. The drill of the corps is only "fair." As regards the ranks, the non-commissioned officers are well up in their work as markers and sectional commanders, and, were the men steadier, the drill could be classed as "good." At the camp the field-firing was good, the average of hits in this regiment being the highest.

107 men of the regiment passed through the authorised musketry course, of whom 78 were trained men and 29 recruits. There were nine marksmen among the 78, and 33 first-class shots, and the shooting is classed by the musketry instructor as "very good." The classification is a stiff one, there being a qualification for each "period."

Captains Watchorn and Richardson have been provisionally promoted, and Lieut. Cutnearn has received a provisional lieutenantcy. Lieutenants G. Penny and Reynolds have passed a satisfactory examination, and have been confirmed in their appointments.

A district court-martial was held on the 12th inst. on Private Viney, who was charged with two offences—one of gross insubordination—committed on the Queen's Birthday parade. He was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment with hard labour, with a recommendation to mercy, in view of which I commuted the imprisonment to dismissal from the service.

Launceston Rifle Regiment.

This regiment is within seven of its establishment of 261. Inspections were held on the 20th September, 1887, 20th December, 1887, 6th March and 5th June, 1888. The attendance was, on the whole, satisfactory, but proportionately not so large as in the Launceston Artillery. The drill of the regiment is "good."

The Cadet Corps is progressing, and continues to furnish recruits for the ranks. Quartermaster Kirkland is in temporary charge. The drill of the cadets at all my inspections and at the camp was "good."

The Reserve men of this corps are still organised, to suit regimental arrangements, as a company, and consist mainly of members of the original Launceston Reserve Force. Captain Sadler is in command of the company; the men attend well, and put in more parades than required by regulation.

The following casualties have occurred in the regiment since my last report:—Captain Reid, of the Reserve Company, has been placed on the retired list, with the hon. rank of Major; Captains Sadler and Young provisionally promoted to the rank of Captain; Lieutenant and Adjutant Read passed a satisfactory examination, and was confirmed in his appointment; Lieut. Fawcett resigned; Lieutenants Chambers, Sams, Fulton, Craig, and Gould provisionally appointed; Lieut. Freeman placed on the Unattached List.

The regiment has been under the command of Major Martin (who was, at the date of my last report, Senior Captain) since the 4th July. This officer has worked assiduously to bring the regiment up to a state of efficiency, and the results have been satisfactory. The young officers promise well, and there is a good spirit in the ranks.

174 men have passed through the authorised musketry course. Major Room, unattached, has been placed in charge of the musketry in the North; and the acquisition of a good range, after a lapse of several years, has been a great boon to the regiment and to the Force generally in the North.

The detail of the musketry will be found in the Appendix.

Country Rifle Clubs.

From the report of the Officer commanding Country Rifle Clubs, laid on the table of the House, it will be seen that this movement has been steadily on the increase, the total number of clubs now being 35, against 34 at the date of my last Report, and the total number of active members now being 1223, against 739 last June.

Reference is made in my report, recently issued, on the Camp, to the large and praiseworthy attendance this year. I had an opportunity of seeing a large number of the members of this branch of the Force, and was impressed with their fine physique and steadiness at drill. Their field-firing was very good.

So far as my travelling allowance would permit I carried out my annual inspection, but, owing to want of funds, I have not as yet inspected many of the clubs. Inspections of the Latrobe, Don, Forth, Leven, Scottsdale, Midlands, Channel, and Franklin have been made, and, with one or two exceptions, I had good musters. I found the men taking an interest in their drill and anxious to learn.

The average heights of some of the Clubs will bear favourable comparison with that of most troops; that of the Channel Club being, for example, 5ft. 8½in.

This has become an important branch of the Service, and has been well organised, under the able and untiring exertions of the Commanding Officer, Colonel Bernard. In order, however, to become a fighting power, the Clubs must be organised into administrative battalions, with a Staff at the head-quarters of each battalion, a course which was recommended last year by the Defence Committee. A School of Instruction must also be provided for the officers, who have no opportunity of working up the profession of arms in the country.

The results of the Annual Course of Musketry are very satisfactory, showing a marked improvement in shooting. The large number of marksmen, however, is partly owing to relaxation of the Regulations in regard to the "periods," which are strictly enforced in the case of the Defence Force.

I am unable to append the Report of the Officer Commanding Country Rifle Clubs as usual, as it has been laid upon the Table of the House as a separate paper.

School Cadet Corps.

The Hutchins' School Corps is still in a satisfactory condition. Gun drill has been discontinued, but the bi-weekly parades at the Barracks are kept up, and on the occasion of my inspection on the 4th instant I found the corps efficient.

A Camp was held at Oatlands at Michaelmas, at which Captain Walsh attended as Assistant to the Commanding Officer, Lieut. Buckland. Colonel Warner, who was in Hobart on military duty, was deputed to inspect the Camp before breaking up.

The corps was likewise exercised in out-post duty at the Alexandra Battery in August last.

At the Queen's Birthday Parade the corps mustered 34.

The senior Cadets passed through a short course of musketry, with satisfactory results.

Strength and Efficients.

The following tables show the strength of the Force at the present date, and the No. of Efficients and Country Recruits enrolled since the 1st of April last:—

<i>Strength of Force.</i>	<i>No. of all Ranks.</i>
Launceston Artillery.....	92
Southern Tasmanian Artillery.....	97
Torpedo Corps	62
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment	161
T.R. Regiment Cadets	60
Launceston Rifle Regiment.....	254
L.R. Regiment Cadets.....	60
Garrison Band	28
Launceston Rifle Band.....	20
Total Defence Force.....	834
Permanent Artillery	25
Torpedo P. Force	2
Staff Officers	4
GRAND TOTAL	865

The disbandment of the Infantry Reserve Companies of the Southern Reserve Force has caused a reduction since the last Return.

To the above must be added, 1223, Country Rifle Clubs, making a total available for the defence of the Colony of 2088 of all ranks.

<i>Efficients.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Launceston Artillery.....	81
Southern Tasmanian Artillery	79
Torpedo Corps	55
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment	106
T.R. Regiment Cadets.....	59
Launceston Rifle Regiment and Band	167
L.R. Regiment Cadets.....	53
Garrison Band	26
TOTAL	626

The number of efficients in musketry in the Country Rifle Clubs is 753.

TASMANIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION AND RIFLE RANGES.

During the past year great improvements have been made on both the Defence Force Ranges, consequent chiefly on the creation of the Tasmanian Rifle Association. Preparatory to the first meeting of the Association at Launceston, in November last, additional mantlets and targets, both iron and canvas, and a "First Class" Wimbledon balance target, were erected, together with a secretary's office and store-room. The meeting was held on the 8th, 9th, and 10th November, and was attended by His Excellency the Governor. Owing to the untiring exertions of the Hon. Secretary (Major J. G. Davies), the event was a success. The principal events were:—The Hamilton Challenge Cup, won by Lieut. Croft, L.A., and Gunner Gow, L.A.; the Davies Challenge Trophy, won by the Scottsdale Club; and the Commanding Officer's Trophy, won by the Launceston Rifle Regiment.

The Hobart Rifle Range, after being altered and added to for last season's musketry course, was still further extended prior to the second meeting of the Association. Two "First Class" Wimbledon balance targets and galleries were constructed on the left of the present butts, and two movable canvas targets on the right, while, further up the hill, a Swiss gallery and three "First Class" Wimbledon targets were constructed, giving a range of 900 yards. The Hobart Range has now, therefore, ample accommodation for all meetings of Tasmanian riflemen, and in the matter of balance targets is, perhaps, before any range in Australia. The land is, however, still in the hands of a private individual, and much inconvenience accrues from this. The ground cannot be occupied for "firing points," and additional butts and targets (which will be required for the Intercolonial meeting) cannot be erected without paying compensation to the tenant. The land is furthermore required for skirmishing and exercising purposes.

The second Association meeting took place at Hobart on the 12th and 13th March, and, though not so largely attended as the first, was nevertheless, on the whole, a success. The above-mentioned prizes all changed hands.

Prior to this meeting a match between members of Rifle Clubs south of Oatlands took place on the Hobart Range for a cup presented by Major-General Tottenham, which was won by the Bothwell Club.

In August last a team of members of the Tasmanian Rifle Association was sent by the Council to Adelaide to compete at the Intercolonial contest, and took third place among the Australian representative teams. The team consisted of members of the Defence Force, the small strength of which, in comparison to those of the other colonies, renders the place taken by Tasmania as very creditable.

The Tasmanian Rifle Association will eventually do good. It is a central power for encouraging and controlling Rifle shooting throughout the colony, and having regard to the expense that country members are put to in travelling, and the fact that the community is divided into two portions which have not a common interest, the two meetings already held were as successful as could be expected. Meetings of Council are held once a month, and the Hon. Secretary (Major Davies) is unflagging in his exertions to push the work of the Association forward.

GENERAL.

The proportion of "efficient" to the enrolled strength is, on the whole, satisfactory, as the work required to be done is heavy for an unpaid Force.

Frequent Garrison parades are held both at Hobart and Launceston, at which the Corps are brought together and exercised either in parade or field work, and lectures are given to the officers and non-commissioned officers in tactics and professional subjects.

Church parades were held at Hobart on the 2nd October, 11th December, and 28th May; also at Launceston twice during the year. Queen's Birthday parades were held at Hobart and Launceston, and salutes and *feu-de-joies* fired, in addition to manœuvres and a march past at both places. At Launceston there was a muster of 339 of all ranks, and at Hobart 363, in addition to 54 members of school cadet corps.

Reference was made in my Report last year to the increase in the work of the Department and the duties devolving on the Staff. Lieut.-Colonel Warner carries out his command in the North with his usual zeal, and renders me every assistance. I have referred elsewhere to the excellent work done by Colonel Bernard in his Department; and I can report very favourably on the zeal shown by Captain Mathieson and Captain Wallack in carrying out the manifold duties of their offices.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. V. LEGGE, *Lt.-Col. R., R.A.,*
Colonel Commanding.

The Hon. the Minister of Defence.

APPENDIX A.

Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 18th July, 1888.

From the Instructor of Musketry to the Commandant.

SIR, IN forwarding the Annual Musketry Returns of the Southern and Northern Divisions, I have the honor to draw your attention to the great improvement that has taken place in the shooting of the Force.

The Figure of Merit of the trained men of each Corps considerably exceeds that laid down in the Imperial Musketry Regulations as "Very Good."

The Figure of Merit of the Recruits is also most satisfactory, as in five corps out of six it can be classified as "Good."

This year the new Figure Targets, as adopted in the Regular Army, have been used, and the course has been nearly the same as that authorised for the English Volunteers on an 800 yards range.

The firing was carried on in uniform. Previous to the men of the Southern Division going to the Butts I gave 26 lectures on the Theoretical Principles of Musketry, and carefully instructed them in position drill, and Morris tube practice. I also put them through judging distances as far as possible. It gives me great pleasure to bring to your notice the valuable assistance rendered to me during the course by Sergeant-Majors Alderton and Hardy. I enclose two statements, marked A. and B., by which you will see the practice of each corps at a glance.

I have, &c.

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Capt., Instructor of Musketry.*

A.

FIGURE of Merit of Trained Men of the Corps of the Tasmanian Defence Force.

Corps.	No. Men Fired.	Weapon.	Rounds per Man.	Total Points.	Figure of Merit.	Marksmen.	First-class Shots.	Second-class Shots.	Third-class Shots.	Merit of practice as laid down in Imperial Musketry Regulations.
Southern Division.										
Tas. Permanent Artillery	17	M.H.C.	50	1962	115.4	5	4	7	1	Very good.
Southern Tas. Artillery	15	M.H.R.	60	1916	127.7	4	6	4	1	Very good.
Tas. Torpedo Corps.....	33	M.H.R.	60	4593	139.1	19	6	8	—	Very good.
Tas. Rifle Regiment.....	78	M.H.R.	60	9560	122.5	9	33	31	5	Very good.
Northern Division.										
Launceston Artillery	23	M.H.R.	60	3250	141.3	11	10	2	—	Very good.
Launceston Rifle Regiment...	37	M.H.R.	60	4915	132.8	12	14	10	1	Very good.

This Return does not include the shooting of 15 officers, 9 of whom came out as Marksmen.

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Capt., Instructor of Musketry.*

NOTE.—The classification here was a difficult one, qualifications being required to pass from one "period" to the other.

W. V. LEGGE, *Lt.-Colonel.*

B.

FIGURE of Merit of the Recruits of the Corps of the Tasmanian Defence Force.

Corps.	No. of Men Fired.	Weapon.	Rounds per Man.	Total Points.	Figure of Merit.	First-class Shots.	Second-class Shots.	Third-class Shots.	Merit of practice as laid down in Imperial Musketry Regulations.
Southern Division.									
Tas. Permanent Artillery	6	M.H.C.	50	518	86.3	3	3	—	Moderate.
Southern Tasmanian Artillery	3	M.H.R.	50	275	91.6	—	3	—	Good.
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps ...	6	M.H.R.	50	559	93.1	2	3	—	Good.
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment...	29	M.H.R.	50	2768	95.4	17	10	—	Good.
Northern Division.									
Launceston Artillery.....	26	M.H.R.	50	2697	104.1	16	10	—	Very good.
Launceston Rifle Regiment...	137	M.H.R.	50	12,564	91.7	64	39	36	Good.

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Capt., Instructor of Musketry.*

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