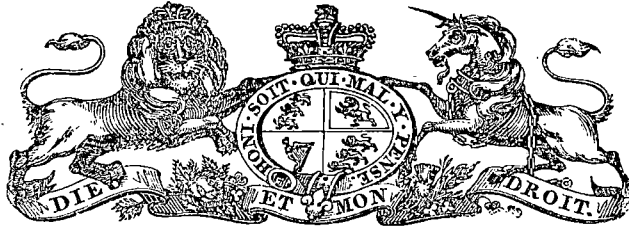


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1901.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE:

REPORT BY THE COMMANDANT.

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

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TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE.

REPORT FOR 1900.

Head Quarters' Office, Hobart, 1st March, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my Report on the Defence Force of Tasmania for the year 1900, and for the months of January and February of the present year, after which its control passes into the hands of the Federal Minister of State.

INTRODUCTORY.

On the 31st of December the strength of the Force was 2554, being an increase of 701 over that of last year. In the aforementioned total, members of the Force serving in South Africa are included.

During the year the following Drafts and Contingents, fully equipped and well trained, were sent to South Africa :—In January, a Draft for Major Cameron's Contingent, consisting of 45 all told, under the command of Captain A. H. Riggall; in March, a Contingent of 52 Mounted Non-Commissioned Officers and men, styled "Tasmanian Bushmen," and which were placed under the temporary command of Lieut.-Colonel E. T. Wallack, who proceeded on Special Service to South Africa; on 26th April, a Tasmanian Unit of the Australian Imperial Contingent, of 5 Officers and 117 Non-Commissioned Officers and men, under the command of Captain R. C. Lewis, Southern Tasmanian Artillery. A further Contingent of two companies of 358, all told, is now in training at New Town for despatch to the seat of war. Reference to these contingents will be made hereafter in my Report.

The war in South Africa has given considerable zest to the military spirit in Tasmania, which is evidenced by the increased numbers and a higher state of efficiency than has heretofore existed among the infantry. The long-felt want of Instructors for the country companies has been to a great extent supplied during the past year, and the effect of their work in companies and detachments distant from the Head Quarters of Battalions has been decidedly marked. The plan of stationing an Instructor for a certain number of days continuously with a number of detachments and companies has been tried, with good results. New companies were formed in Queens-town and Strahan in the months of June and August respectively, and new detachments at Campania and Colebrook in connection with the newly-established Head Quarters of "E." Company at Richmond. In each case an Instructor was detailed for the continuous instruction of these units until the recruits forming them could be passed into the ranks.

UNITS OF THE FORCE.

The following are my remarks on the various units, details and contingents, in connection with the Force under my command during the past 14 months :—

PERMANENT ARTILLERY.

This Corps has been increased by 2 gunners, but as yet only numbers 14 of all ranks. The numbers are absolutely insufficient to perform the continuous work required in the batteries and in the Ordnance Stores, and to do the minimum amount of drill required to make the men in any way efficient as gunners.

Until the Permanent Artillery is raised to its original strength, and the men can undergo a proper training as artillerymen, they cannot hold the position for which they were originally intended, viz., a trained nucleus for the assistance and training of partially-paid artillery, and the filling of responsible positions in connection with the manning of the forts. With the number increased to 14, however, it has been possible to carry on a certain amount of drill. Artillery practice was also carried out from the Queen's Battery this year, with satisfactory results.

One gunner—J. Keogh—I regret to say, has been discharged invalided from the Corps, having met with an accident while at work with the machinery of one of the H.P. guns. Armament Artificer Roberts, attached to the Corps, has also been discharged invalided owing to a long-standing injury to his eye.

The Instructor, Quartermaster-Master Sergeant J. O'Rourke, in addition to his duties as Master Gunner and Instructor of the Southern Tasmanian Artillery, has done good work during the past year with the section of the Launceston Field Artillery at the Camp, and in Launceston.

PARTIALLY-PAID CORPS.

LAUNCESTON ARTILLERY.

This Corps, commanded by Major G. Harrap, has increased its strength, numbering 116. Since this total was reached, however, the Corps has been organized as Field and Siege Artillery, for which an establishment of 94 is proposed. The Field Section remains as it is, my recommendation for the transfer of the 12-prs. at Hobart not having been carried out. The Section, under the command of Lieutenant Boag, attended the Easter Encampment, going under canvas at Newstead, and also the usual November Camp at Ross, where good work was done in manœuvering and in practice at long range at dummy targets representing columns of infantry. At Newstead, additional members attended as Garrison Artillery with a total strength numbering 67, the whole being under command of Major G. Harrap. At Ross, likewise, 42 members, also under Major Harrap, attended with the Field Section, bringing one 40-pr. and two 7-pr. jointed guns to Camp, with which excellent practice was made. Infantry dummies in column at 2750 yards formed a target for the 7-pr., and a gun epaulement with artillery dummies at 3800 yards for the 40-pr. At the 12-pr. practice one of the guns was dismantled, owing to the snapping of the head of the recoil piston-rod, but the repairs were well effected in Launceston.

The new howitzer siege buffer, pivot and platform were used for the first time with the 40-pr. at this practice, and acted admirably, in spite of the heavy charge used, 10 lbs.

Considerable difficulty was again experienced in the matter of horses for the field section. Entirely new teams had to be procured in Launceston, and hardly one of the horses which were partly trained at the last November camp could be procured this time. Until horses can be purchased for the Field Artillery, good work cannot be done with it. The only horses available for hire are, on all occasions, heavy and unsuitable.

The Launceston Artillery maintains its usual efficiency at drill, and always turns out very strongly at my inspections. The physique of a few of the men is not quite as good as I should wish, but an improvement has been made in the recruits recently enrolled. The harness-room, which was being built when I rendered my last report, is now finished, and furnishes the long-desired accommodation for the equipment of the Corps.

No volunteers for South Africa came from this Corps during the year, but 4 men are now in camp at New Town.

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN ARTILLERY.

The strength of the Southern Artillery is 95, an increase of 12 men over the preceding year. The numbers are still, therefore, far below the establishment, which is to be regretted, when the important rôle this Corps has to fill in the defence of Hobart is taken into consideration. The same causes militate year after year against the filling up of the S.T.A., viz., the arduous nature of the drill, and the want of sufficient pay to bring its organisation into line with the Artillery Corps on the Mainland. The amount of money voted by the State is so small that, when contingent expenses, such as transport, laying out of targets, &c., are deducted, the men receive a very small amount of money.

In order to popularise the work last year, the drills for training were spread over the year, with the exception of the three winter months, and practice was carried out in the early, as well as the latter, part of the year. In addition to practice from the smaller "natures," a few rounds were fired from the 6-in. H.P. and R.M.L. 8-in. guns.

The same difficulty has again been experienced in the matter of targets, the towing of which is found to be impossible, for the same reason as heretofore; practice was, therefore, again carried

on at stationary targets, and this unsatisfactory state of affairs will continue until a Government steamer is available for Artillery work.

In addition to annual training, 53 officers and men attended the combined Easter Camp at St. Leonards. The Nordenfelt guns, in charge of the corps, were taken, and some useful practice on a land range was carried out. The Southern Artillery should, by rights, go into camp at Easter-time at the forts for drill and practice, but the money allowed for payment of drill has not hitherto been sufficient.

Lieut.-Colonel T. M. Evans still commands, and the drill and discipline is all that can be desired. Lieutenants Spencer and Bone passed their examination for confirmation in their ranks. The usual inspections were held: attendance and drill good.

The corps has done good work as regards the South African war. Captain R. C. Lewis* was chosen to command the 1st Imperial Contingent; Lieut. Walch was sent to the Cape on special service, and would have had a commission given him in the Royal Artillery had he not been severely wounded when doing duty with the R.H. Artillery at the affair of Kornspruit. Steps are now being taken, however, to bring his claim before the authorities in England, which will, probably, result in his receiving the commission for which he was nominated. Lieut. Spencer is with the 2nd Imperial Contingent in training at New Town.

Three men volunteered for the "draft" Contingent which left in January, and one officer for the 1st Imperial Contingent. Six are now in camp at New Town.

TASMANIAN ENGINEERS.

Strength of corps 52, or an increase of only one over last year's number, as the establishment has been kept as low as possible, owing to want of money. It is now being increased to 70, and the ranks will shortly be filled up. Good work has been done during the last 12 months, but the money available for the training was again too small to allow of many operations being done. The instruction was carried out at the end of the year, and consisted of submarine mining, bridging, and elementary fortification. A model-room is much required, as I pointed out last year; but the money submitted for it on the estimates has again been eliminated. A field telegraph-cart, which was constructed in Victoria, has been added to the equipment of the corps. Captain Parker, who is in command, has passed his examination for confirmation in the rank of captain, and Lieut. C. B. Davies has taken a commission as lieutenant. He is an expert electrician, and holds out the promise of becoming a good officer.

The usual inspections were held, with satisfactory results. The Engineers have always taken a great interest in shooting, and this year some of the corps' teams have made unusually good scores at matches held on the Sandy Bay range.

VOLUNTEER CORPS.

MOUNTED INFANTRY.

The organisation of a company at Hobart was commenced at the beginning of the year. Two divisions were enrolled, one for Hobart, and the other for Brown's River. Later in the year the nucleus of a third division was enrolled at Brighton, and afterwards completed to the full strength. A further division was subsequently enrolled, with its head quarters at Sorell. An attempt was also made to enrol a second division for the Northern Company at Deloraine, where it was thought that sufficient men owning good horses would be forthcoming; the reverse was the case, however, and the division has been abandoned for the present. Experience shows that it is difficult to make much headway as yet with this important branch of the service, the chief difficulty being, apparently, the want of suitable horses owned by the particular stamp of men it is desired to enrol; the population is also too scattered, making it difficult to choose centres within measurable distance of which the proper number of men for a division can be found.

The company at Hobart has done good work in furnishing Escorts for ceremonial functions. It was raised by Mr. G. Steward, the Under Secretary, who was appointed Lieutenant, and passed his examination for confirmation in his rank in November; he is now probationary Captain.

So far the men enrolled have shown considerable interest in their work, and have attended more voluntary daylight parades than any other branch of the service.

Thirty-one of all ranks attended the Easter Camp, going under canvas at Newstead with the field section of the Launceston Artillery. A total of twenty-seven attended the Artillery Camp at Ross in November, and, owing to the admirable nature of the ground in the vicinity, excellent instructions in drill and tactics were imparted.

* The rewards given to this officer and others dating, as they do, after this report, will be mentioned in the next.

The division at Ulverstone, chiefly owing to the want of a suitable officer and the injudicious enrolment in the first instance, was, during the most part of the year, in an unsatisfactory condition; improvement is, however, now manifest.

It may be emphatically stated that the Mounted Infantry in Tasmania will not become the effective branch of the service that it ought to be, until a smart and capable officer is appointed to command the whole. The establishment has been fixed at four companies, the head-quarters of one of these to be at or near Launceston, and when money is voted for the enrolment of this number of men, a very efficient Force will be furnished for the State, if a good officer can be found to command it.

INFANTRY REGIMENT.

This branch of the service has made very satisfactory progress. Stimulated by the war spirit due to the South African campaign, recruiting has been vigorous, and the regiment is up to the full strength allowed by the recently approved establishment, viz., 2164. This increase has been due, to a certain extent, to the raising of the two new companies already mentioned, on the West Coast, which followed directly after my visit for this purpose to that important centre.

The increased number of Instructors, entailing better and more continued instruction, has also, I am of opinion, given a stimulus to recruiting. The chief drawback now to an up-to-date efficiency is the want of the magazine rifle. Altogether, 1500 of these weapons have been ordered, but there has been a very serious delay in their delivery, and no portion of this order has as yet been completed. Another grave defect, mentioned by me last year, is the want of suitable drill-halls, particularly where there is a whole Company stationed. The miserable buildings in which a number of companies and detachments are obliged to drill, and for which a high rent is charged has, in the past, accounted for much of the defective training of the Country Infantry, who are expected to maintain the same state of efficiency as the townsmen, with many less advantages. It is extremely difficult to obtain proper supervision by the Commanding Officers of detachments over the arms and equipment of their men, and this is again owing to the want of proper buildings for storage.

So soon as the Battalion Adjutants, the appointment of which I have so frequently urged, are furnished, both the drill and the interior economy of the Country Infantry will be better attended to, for at present I find it impossible to obtain from purely volunteer officers (who cannot afford the proper amount of time), the necessary interest in the interior economy of their detachments. During the year a new system of attestation has been introduced, also a different mode of keeping the equipment; recruit certificates for efficiency are also now insisted upon, which changes tend to better interior economy in the infantry units.

During the year the three Maxim guns ordered some time ago have been supplied. One has been placed in charge of each of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, and a number of detachments put through a course of drill. The gun for the 3rd Battalion is still in store, awaiting the erection of the new drill-hall at the head-quarters—Ulverstone.

Further *desiderata* for the Infantry are: a more extended course of Musketry; a certain amount of free ammunition for each company; and a compulsory camp, *with pay*. It cannot be too strongly insisted that good Infantry are as much, if not more, required in this State than on the Mainland. The reasons, strategical and otherwise, need not be mentioned in a public report of this nature, but they are nevertheless valid, and the policy of not perfecting this important branch of the Force may some day prove to be very short-sighted.

Owing to the departure of Lieutenant-Colonel E. T. Wallack for South Africa, the immediate control of the Infantry has devolved on myself, the whole of the Staff work having been done by the newly-appointed Infantry Staff Officer, Captain Perceval, who has worked ably and well in this capacity.

1st Battalion.—There has been an improvement in drill, discipline, and interior economy in this unit. The numbers have increased from 562 in the previous year, to 666 on the 31st of December last. The new establishment for the Battalion is 8 companies, of 688 all told, and a half-company of 50 attached, a total of 738. A company is about to be enrolled at New Norfolk, which will bring the Battalion up to its full strength. The two City companies have been amalgamated into one, so as to maintain complete the authorised units in the country. The Sandy Bay Company has maintained the efficient state reported last year. The Richmond detachment has been separated from the Clarence Company, and made the head-quarters of a new unit, with detachments as mentioned above.

The attendance at the Easter Camp was a little better than the year before, but still only moderate. Lieutenant-Colonel E. T. Watchorn has remained in command, and Lieutenant Lord retains the Adjutancy. Both of these officers have worked zealously for the efficiency of the Battalion.

Captain Westbrook, and Lieutenants Lord, Bennison, Ogilvy, and Snowden, have passed through the Class of Instruction, and qualified for their respective ranks.

Three officers, Lieutenants Adams, Perkins, and Wylly, and 17 non-commissioned officers and men, were furnished for the Draft, Bushmen, and Imperial Contingents from the Battalion, and have all done well at the seat of war. Lieutenant Perkins received the D.S.O., and Lieutenant Wylly the V.C., he being the first Australian officer to gain the coveted honour. Lieutenant Adams, who went with the draft as a sergeant, regained his rank at the seat of war on his appointment to a lieutenancy in the Bushmen's Contingent. Lieutenant-Colonel Watchorn has been appointed to the command of the Second Imperial Contingent.

2nd Battalion.—This Battalion has considerably increased in numbers, and is now nearly up to its full strength. The establishment is the same as the 1st Battalion, viz., 8 companies and a half-company of 50, the total being 758. It maintains its efficiency; but the Head Quarters Companies are still at a great disadvantage, owing to the want of a proper ground for exercising; the drill-yard is so miserably small that there is not even room for the ceremonial work required at an inspection. It must be again mentioned that the Market Green is the only available place for drill, and it is much to be regretted that it has not been possible, as yet, to make arrangements for the use of this very suitable site. If it were enclosed with a fence, and lit by electric light, as recommended by me in my last Report, the appearance of the ground as a city square would be much improved, and the Force in Launceston at the same time benefited. The Evandale Company, formerly commanded by Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron, and now in charge of Captain Hawley, is at the head of the country companies as regards efficiency, and has, in addition to the city companies, been armed with the Martini-Enfield rifles. The newly-formed Lilydale detachment of the Scottsdale Company promises well, but labours under the same disadvantage as many other detachments, in being much cut off from Head Quarters, the reason in this instance being the inconvenient running of the trains. The Deloraine Company still continues to be at the bottom of the list as regards efficiency.

The muster at camp was again poor, which is all the more unsatisfactory, as the ground was in close proximity to Head Quarters, but the short attendance was largely due to the very poor muster of the Longford, Deloraine, and Fingal companies.

Lieutenant-Colonel Martin, the Commanding Officer, continues to work hard for his Battalion, and holds the command of the troops in Launceston. The Adjutant, Captain Heritage, has returned from South Africa, and taken up his duties. He is about to be appointed to the General Staff as a paid officer. Captain Hawley, Lieutenants Riggall, Smith, Cole, Cameron, Gillett, Reed, Foster, Inglis, and M'Kinnon, have passed through the Class of Instruction, and qualified for the rank they hold.

In addition to the two officers who served in South Africa with the 1st Contingent, this Battalion has again furnished two officers, Captain Riggall and Lieutenant Lowther, and 15 non-commissioned officers and men for the Draft, Bushmen, and Imperial Contingents. Captain Riggall was sent out on special service, and was afterwards appointed to the command of the Tasmanian Bushmen. He was subsequently given Staff duty, in addition to his command, and did good work in the Rhodesian Field Force. Lieutenant Lowther, who went out as a Sergeant with the Draft, regained his rank on appointment, together with Lieutenant Adams, to a lieutenancy in the Tasmanian Bushmen. The services of the Second Battalion, therefore, at the seat of war fall little behind those of the First. The usual inspections of the Headquarter Companies of this and the First Battalion were held during the year.

Third Battalion.—This Battalion has been increased during the last year by the two companies aforementioned at Queenstown and Strahan; its strength is now 681. When the three West Coast companies are up to their full strength, they will form a considerable portion of the whole Battalion. It is much to be regretted, as was mentioned last year, that these companies are practically cut off from the Head Quarters by the want of any provision for free travelling on the Emu Bay railway; were this not the case, rifle matches between the Northern and Western sections of the Battalions could take place, and Battalion Parades be held.

The companies contiguous to Head Quarters at Ulverstone still labour under the disadvantage arising from the want of a drill-room and offices, where the administrative work of the Battalion could be carried on, as at Launceston. The Battalion is thus deprived of a "focus" or Head Quarter nucleus, which is all the more required, as the companies around Ulverstone are split up into too many detachments. I trust that the long-desired drill-room will shortly be an accomplished fact.

Major H. G. Brown continues in command. Both the Adjutant, Captain Wallace Brown, and the Instructor have been absent most of the year. The Instructor's place was filled by Sergeant-Major Bruce, assisted latterly by Sergeant-Major Alderton, who has done excellent work, in spite of his advanced years.

This Battalion did not muster well at the St. Leonards Camp, 195 of all ranks being present. Considering the remote position of the Battalion, however, the attendance was better than that of the Second, and would have been still more so had it not been for the difficulty of transport between Zeehan and St. Leonards. It is right also to mention that the West Coast men are always desirous of attending the Camps, and are put to considerable expense in so doing, as the mining men amongst them experience difficulty in providing substitutes during their absence.

Captain G. A. Gurney, and Lieutenants R. R. Roberts and C. Henderson, attended the Class of Instruction, and passed for their respective ranks.

One officer—Lieutenant A. A. Sale—was furnished for the First Imperial Contingent. Another, Lieutenant Henderson, is at present in Camp as an officer of the Second Imperial Contingent. Thirteen non-commissioned officers and men have been furnished for the Draft, Bushmen, and Imperial Contingents. The Sheffield detachment furnished 7 men for the First Contingent (Draft).

CLASS OF INSTRUCTION.

Two classes of instruction for officers and non-commissioned officers have been held. The first lasted from 22nd June to 6th July. There were 24 officers and 32 non-commissioned officers present. The officers were Captains S. T. Tinning, R. W. T. Westbrook, W. H. Buckland, S. Hawley, G. A. Gurney, R. Coldstream, F. K. Miller, W. L. Sansom; Lieutenants J. E. C. Lord, H. Riggall, R. E. Smith, A. A. Gye, H. Cole, J. Cameron, H. Gillett, H. Reed, E. A. Bennison, C. Henderson, R. R. Roberts, K. A. Ogilvy, R. E. Snowden, and H. Foster. (Cadets) Lieutenants C. R. Davies and A. F. Maning.

The second class was held in January, 1901, from the 6th to the 23rd, and was attended by 6 officers and 5 non-commissioned officers. The officers were Captain W. L. Sansom, Lieutenants J. C. Inglis, R. Mackinnon, D. M. Davis, W. H. Read, A. H. Brown.

Some of the officers and non-commissioned officers passed very good examinations, and returned to their districts much more efficient than they were. Captain Perceval acted as Chief Instructor in the June class, being assisted by Sergeant-Majors Clapshaw and Bruce.

At the second class in January, the Adjutant of the Second Battalion, Captain Heritage, acted as chief instructor, assisted by Sergeant Major Mears.

CADETS.

Southern Tasmanian Corps.—This corps numbers five honorary Lieutenants, including the Quartermaster, and 84 Cadets, exclusive of school Cadets, attached for drill. Captain Buckland is in command. Lieutenants Davies and Maning attended the June class of instruction. The Adjutant, Lieutenant Reid, late R.F.A., has been absent in South Africa, and his place was taken by Lieutenant E. N. Snowden. The *personnel* of the corps has much improved of late, the officers are smart, and the drill good.

Northern Corps.—This unit has increased to 60, and is under the command of Captain Kildea. This corps furnishes a good many desirable recruits for the Second Battalion.

The southern and northern Cadets went into camp at Claremont, on 9th November, under Captain Buckland, for three days. Drill and field training were carried out, and the conduct of the lads was good.

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

The section of the bearer company in Launceston, organised and enrolled in 1899, have been increased to 23 of all ranks. The men have been well instructed in technical work by Surgeon-Captain Holmes, but the military administration of the section has been unsatisfactory, and the attendance at camp very poor.

ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

Authority having been obtained for enrolling this Corps, steps will shortly be taken to enlist the men. Arrangements are now in progress for obtaining, from Sydney, the necessary vehicles of approved patterns, to govern future supplies.

CAMP OF INSTRUCTION.

Two camps have been held during the year, namely, the general Easter muster, which took place at St. Leonards, on ground kindly placed at the disposal of the Government by Mr. W. C. Grubb, Tolarno, St. Leonards, which gentleman rendered much assistance in the supply of wood, &c., and in giving the use of his runs for the purposes of manœuvre.

The Field Artillery and Mounted Infantry went under canvas at Newstead, where stable accommodation was available. They drilled at the show grounds at that place, but attended at St. Leonards for the field work and review. Inclement weather prevailed on the Saturday and Sunday, and interfered considerably with the field work; but Easter Monday being fine, manoeuvres were carried out in the morning, and the review in the afternoon. The country in the vicinity of the camp, being all "close," was unsuitable for field work. Endeavours were made to have the camp at Ross, where the country is admirably suited for the work of all branches of the service, but the Railway Department stated its inability to furnish transport, and the project, I regret to say, had to be abandoned.

The usual Artillery Camp was held at Ross for three days, in November, the aforementioned section of the Mounted Infantry attending as well. I attended this camp also, with Captain Perceval as staff officer. Good practice and useful work, as heretofore mentioned, was carried out.

I must again call attention to the admirable facilities furnished by Ross for the annual training of the forces. The soil is healthy, and the surrounding country all that could be desired for the field training of the men, and the instruction of the officers in tactics. The locality is, therefore, eminently suited for a permanent camp, both as regards ground, and facilities of transport. All that is required is shelter for the horses, as the climate is too cold for night picketing, as in the other states. The owner of the ground, Mr. Eustace Cameron, is most courteous and obliging as regards the use of the surrounding country, and the general furthering of the work.

In addition to the above camps a "Camp of Accommodation," was held in the Domain in January, at which the Second and Third Battalions, in addition to the country companies of the First Battalion, were present for the purpose of assisting at the reception of the Imperial Representative Corps; Lieut.-Colonel Watchorn was in command. The Imperial Representative Corps arrived in the *Britannic* on the evening of the 22nd, and on the following morning the death of Her Most Gracious Majesty, our late beloved Queen, took place. This sad event marred the contemplated military functions. A memorial service, however, was held on the review ground in the Domain on the 24th. The troops in garrison and camp lined the streets during the procession of the Imperial Corps, and joined with them in the memorial service parade.

COMMONWEALTH CELEBRATIONS.

A Representative Corps to attend the above functions was despatched to Sydney per s.s. *Wakitipu*, on 27th December, 1900. The officers were Major (now Brevet Lieut.-Colonel) C. St. Clair Cameron in command of the whole, Captain Wallace Brown, commanding the infantry, Lieutenant Walch in command of the Artillery, Lieutenants Lord and Riggall as subalterns for Infantry Corps. The representative detachments of corps and battalions were as follow (inclusive of the above officers):—South African Contingent 20 of all ranks, Launceston Artillery 12, Southern Tasmanian Artillery 12, Tasmanian Engineers 6, Mounted Infantry 6, First Battalion, T.I.R. 17, Second Battalion 16, Third 15: Total 104.

The corps was under canvas at the Centennial Park, being maintained by the New South Wales Government. It took part in the procession on Tuesday, 1st, and in the review in the Centennial Park on the 3rd, where the men did credit to the State in the march past. I attended the celebrations as a guest of the Commonwealth, taking with me Lieut.-Colonel Evans, and Lieut.-Colonel Martin, as representing the Artillery and Infantry services, and Captain A. C. Parker as A.D.C. The Corps re-embarked for Tasmania on the 6th, and arrived in Launceston on the 8th.

CONTINGENTS.

Referring to mention already made concerning the South African Contingents, I beg to offer the following remarks:—The three units despatched to South Africa fully maintain the excellent reputation, both as to conduct, discipline, and good work in the field, which the first Tasmanian Contingent, under the splendid leadership of Colonel Cameron, gained for Tasmanian soldiers. Without doubt, the excellent example set by the first unit proved a stimulus for all the others, each one of which was anxious to emulate the reputation gained by the one preceding it. Added to this, the natural resourcefulness, self-reliance, capability for riding, and knowledge of bush country, common to the Australians as a race, eminently befitted our men for the peculiar style of warfare characteristic of the campaign. A praiseworthy feature in the performances of the Tasmanians was the good work done by the officers, who are nearly all volunteers with less training than the militia on the Mainland; this, doubtless, is due to the keen sense of duty and discipline which, I am proud to say, is characteristic of the officers under my command as a body.

A noteworthy point in connection with the Tasmanian Mounted Contingents was the excellent character of the horses purchased for the campaign. They were procured almost entirely by Messrs. Page and Parker, who had instructions as to the nature and height of the animal best suited for mounted infantry work; and it may be said without fear of contradiction, that the general appearance of the "mounts" when the units embarked for service was a surprise to every one.

Allusion has already been made to the various officers of the Contingent, except in the case of Surgeon-Lieut. Jamieson, who went out as medical officer with the Draft under Captain A. H. Riggall, and did good work in South Africa.

On the 12th December, the First Contingent and the Draft returned by the *Harlech Castle* to Tasmania, under the Command of Lient-Colonel C. St. C. Cameron, late of the 9th Lancers, the other officers being Captains W. Brown and Heritage, Lieut. Reid being in England on sick furlough at the time. The disembarkation took place at Hobart, and a splendid reception was accorded to the returning soldiers. Colonel Cameron, who was wounded in the campaign, had, by his excellent leadership and valuable services, gained a brilliant reputation for Tasmania, and was enthusiastically received by his countrymen. Both officers and men did justice in the campaign to their able Commander, and it is not too much to say that the good work of the men was also, in no little measure, due to the untiring efforts and hard work performed by Warrant Officer J. Costello.

TASMANIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

This Association continues to be carried on under the guidance of Lieut.-Colonel Davies. Six Council meetings have been held during the past year. The Federal Rifle Association held its meeting at Hobart in December. The States of Victoria and New South Wales were represented, and a keenly contested Inter-State match, on the 19th December, took place, resulting in a victory for New South Wales, Tasmania being second. The various scores were—New South Wales, 1436; Tasmania, 1408; Victoria, 1379. The Champion Match was won by Tasmania, and the "Tattersall's Trophy" by the Engineers.

RIFLE RANGES.

Hobart.—Further improvements were carried out on the Sandy Bay Rifle Range prior to the holding of the meeting. The whole of the canvas targets (32) are of General French's pattern, and work very well. A certain amount of space was kept for the retention of four iron targets, which are used for musketry and matches with the M.-H. Rifle.

Launceston.—Nothing has yet been done towards the draining of this range, though certain experiments were carried out in connection with the disappearing canvas targets. If the money is voted this year it is to be hoped the range will be drained and the targets erected in the near future.

STAFF.

Lieut.-Colonel E. T. Wallack, Commanding Infantry, and Chief Staff Officer, was sent to South Africa in March on Special Service duty. He went out in charge of the Bushmen Contingent, which, together with the Draft, he assisted materially in training. During his service in South Africa, he held an important post on the Staff of the General Commanding in Rhodesia.

As before mentioned, the command of the Infantry was taken over by myself, after Colonel Wallack's departure. In the administration of this branch of the service, and in the reorganising of much of the important details in connection with its interior economy, I have been materially assisted by Captain A. W. B. Perceval. This Officer re-joined from Queensland, in April, after serving a year in the Mounted Infantry in that State: he has acted as Chief Instructor to this branch of the service, and did good work in organising the several Units in it, enrolled up to the present time. Lieut.-Colonel A. Reid has, as usual, done the work of Quarter-Master-General in connection with the camps, and, in addition, has very materially assisted in the outfitting of the various contingents. Major Henry and Captain Reynolds have done the usual Staff work in connection with Submarine Mining and the Camps of Exercise respectively. Captain A. C. Parker was permanently appointed Field A.D.C. in December, and renders good service in that capacity.

The Defences of the State have now been taken over by the Commonwealth Government, and Estimates are ordered to be prepared for the service of the year 1901 and 1902, commencing on the 1st July. It is to be hoped that due regard will be paid to Tasmania as one of the most important strategic points in Australia; that its fortifications may be improved, the troops paid for daylight training as in the other States, and the condition of the Force generally raised to the level of those on the Mainland. It is an opportune time for the inclusion of our Force in the Commonwealth Army, as its numbers have never been so strong as at present.

I have, &c.,

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

11

A.

TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE.

STATE of the Tasmanian Defence Force on 31st December, 1900.

Corps.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Surgeons.	Pay and Quarter Masters.	Chaplains.	Warrant Officers.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers.	Band.	Rank and File.	Total of all Ranks.	Officers.	Cadets.
General Staff	2	1	...	...	...	...	8	1	...	...	...	...	12	...	...
Volunteer Staff	2	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...
Tasmanian Permanent Artillery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	13	14	...	...
Permanent Torpedo & Artificers .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Launceston Artillery	2	1	1	1	...	...	1	3	4	3	...	100	116	...	...
Southern Tasmanian Artillery	1	2	4	1	1	...	...	...	5	3	...	78	95	...	...
Tasmanian Mounted Infantry .....	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	1	4	2	...	83	95	...	...
Tasmanian Engineers .....	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	5	1	...	42	52	...	...
1st Battalion Tasmanian Infantry Regiment	1	8	21	1	1	...	...	2	37	13	...	582	666	...	...
2nd ditto ditto	3	7	18	3	...	1	1	3	41	18	34	629	758*	...	60
3rd ditto ditto	1	7	14	3	...	3	...	1	37	13	...	602	681	...	...
Army Medical Corps .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	23	...	...
Head Quarters Band .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	32	...	35	...	...
Cadet Corps .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	150
	12	30	63	9	3	5	12	13	135	53	66	2153	2554	5	210

* Garrison Band included.

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

B.

EFFICIENCY Return of the Tasmanian Defence Force for the Year ending 31st December, 1900.

CORPS.	NUMBER OF EFFICIENTS.
Launceston Artillery	105
Southern Tasmanian Artillery	79
Tasmanian Engineers	52
Tasmanian Mounted Infantry	56
1st Battalion Infantry Regiment	479
2nd " " "	549
3rd " " "	476
Army Medical Corps	19
Grand Total	1815

A. W. B. PERCEVAL, Captain, Acting Chief Staff Officer.

C.

TASMANIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT.

STATE on 31st December, 1900, showing Number of Efficient, and Result of Musketry Course.

Battalion or Corps.	Total enrolled.	Efficients.	Number of Trained Men fired.	Figure of Merit.	Number of Recruits Fired.	Figure of Merit.
Staff	9	...	...	...	...	...
1st Battalion T.I.R.	701	479	174	79	245	48
2nd Battalion T.I.R.	758	549	191	80	330	50
3rd Battalion T.I.R.	681	476	147	83	288	51

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

D.

ST. LEONARDS and Newstead Camp Parade State, 13th April, 1900.

Corps.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Surgeons.	Paymasters.	Quarter Masters.	Warrant Officers.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters and Buglers.	Band.	Rank and File.	Total.	Remarks.
Staff.....	2	2	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	..	7	
Permanent Artillery.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	10	11	
Launceston Artillery.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	4	...	55	63	At Newstead
Southern Tasmanian Artillery.....	1	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	5	...	...	44	53	
Tasmanian Engineers.....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	16	19	
Tasmanian Mounted Infantry.....	...	1	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	24	31	At Newstead
1st Battalion Tasmanian Infantry...	1	7	10	1	...	1	3	1	16	9	23	246	318	
2nd Battalion Tasmanian Infantry...	2	5	7	...	1	1	3	3	14	12	27	174	249	
3rd Battalion Tasmanian Infantry...	1	3	5	1	...	...	1	2	15	7	...	160	195	
Launceston Cadets.....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	28	31	
Southern Tasmanian Cadets.....	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	32	41	
	8	20	31	2	1	4	10	9	60	33	50	789	1018	

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

E.

ROSS Camp Parade State, November, 1900.

Distribution.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Surgeons.	Paymasters.	Quarter-Masters.	Warrant Officers.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters and Buglers.	Band.	Rank and File.	Total of all Ranks.
Staff.....	1	2	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	7
Permanent Artillery.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	10	11
Mounted Infantry.....	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	20	27
Launceston Artillery.....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	...	55	64
Second Battalion Infantry, and Band.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	20	22
TOTAL.....	3	3	4	1	...	...	3	3	6	3	...	105	131

A. W. B. PERCEVAL, *Captain, Brigade Major.*

F.

SYNOPSIS of Battery Practice Reports, Launceston Artillery, 1900.

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.	35	10	25	Small	T. and P. (short)	19	7	9
12-pr. B.L.	27	7	20	Small	T. and P. (short)	21	6	Nil.
40-pr. B.L.	10	7	3	Bolt	T. and P. (medium)	4	6	Nil.

GEO. E. HARRAP, *Captain and Brevet-Major, Commanding Launceston Artillery.*