

Inspection of Nelson, Marlborough, and Westland District.

Nelson, Marlborough, and Westland District.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers, Rank and File.	Total.	At Inspection.	Qualified for Capitulation.	Unqualified.	Remarks.
Mounted Rifles— Marlborough Mounted Rifles	3	48	51	32	...	51	Moderate; shows signs of improvement.
Naval Artillery— (B.) Nelson Navals ...	3	60	63	56	61	2	A very good infantry company.
Greymouth Navals	3	52	55	42	55	...	This company has gone back; there was no drill-shed.
Westport Navals ...	2	64	66	47	58	8	A very good infantry company.
Total ...	8	176	184	145	174	10	
Field Artillery— H Battery ...	3	52	55	42	52	3	Fair knowledge of theoretical work; no practical knowledge. The guns are useless.
Rifle Companies— Westland Rifles ...	3	70	73	61	63	10	Fairly good; has improved slightly.
Nelson City Rifles ...	3	49	52	52	44	8	Much improved.
Stoke Rifles ...	2	47	49	38	35	14	Much improved.
Blenheim Rifles ...	3	71	74	63	70	4	This will be a very good company.
Waimea Rifles ...	3	48	51	48	43	8	Much improved.
Kumara Rifles ...	3	57	60	50	57	3	Has improved. The subaltern officers never have a chance of drilling the company.
Greymouth Rifles ...	2	55	57	51	57	...	There was no drill-shed. I was obliged to inspect in the dark. The company did fairly well.
Blenheim City Rifles ...	3	48	51	34	51	...	No officer; only one sergeant present at inspection. This company is in a very unsatisfactory state.
Brunnerton Rifles ...	3	51	54	36	54	...	No improvement.
Totara Rifles ...	1	49	50	20	49	1	No improvement; a bad spirit exists in this company.
Total ...	26	545	571	453	523	48	
Grand total ...	40	821	861	672	749	112	

87 per cent. capitated.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

A NUMBER of gentlemen of the medical profession give their time and frequently spend their money freely for the benefit of the Volunteer Force.

In many of the companies and corps a proportion of the men are instructed in ambulance work, but in others nothing of the kind is attempted.

There is no system of organization, and none is attempted except during Easter Camps. Surgeon-Major De Latour, Principal Medical Officer, Otago District, does more in the way of organization than I have found in other districts.

There was no medical officer at the camp at Kaituna, in the Canterbury District. It is fortunate that no serious consequences resulted. No artillery practice should be carried out unless a medical officer is present.

It has been reported to me that medical officers attending camp and taking medical comforts for the benefit of the men in camp have frequently to bear the expense thereof, being unable to recover the amount. This is not right, and very possibly was the reason why no officer went to the Kaituna Camp. They are justified in arguing that it is useless their going without medicines, and, although perfectly willing to go, they do not feel called upon to expend their own money in supplying medicines.

CADET CORPS.

The following return shows the various cadet companies in the colony, with their strengths, and the amount of allowance paid to each during the past year.

The Wanganui Collegiate School Cadets, the Wellington College Cadets, the Nelson College Cadets, the Kaiapoi Rifle Cadets, the Queen's Cadets, and the Dunedin High School Cadets are very good companies.