

*Confidential*

No.

*(63) C. 1/05**1905**Governor*

(SUBJECT.)

1905

*21<sup>st</sup> Jan 4*

Previous Papers.

*Remarks by C. S. C  
on Annual Report, P. I. Members*

(MINUTES.)

*C. S. C* is commencing Office to  
 L. H. Wall for their information.  
 To what extent is it  
 possible to comply with  
 C. S. C's remarks, or alter  
 the defects complained of.

*21.1.05*

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary.

Subsequent Papers.

When sending home the Annual Musketry Returns  
 for the year ended 30th June 1904, answers were sent to  
 all

all the questions arising out of the previous report. I attach a list of those questions and also a list of the replies given.

Question 1. is answered by 7. No blank is issued. We had no Morris Tubes then, but we have recently received two and will be able to give instruction to all in miniature cartridge practice before commencing the annual course of musketry.

Question 2 was answered by 5. We have no regulated number, but all these drills &c are carried out.

Question 3, was answered by 6, and a copy of the modified course was sent with the Company Annual Musketry Returns.

Question 4, was answered by 9.

Question 5, was answered by 10.

In drafting the present Musketry Course (which the Commandant, School of Musketry, admits to be an improvement on the previous one) consideration was given to the fact that a number of the members can give so little time to shooting on account of their peat cutting &c.

It is pointed out in para 2 of the report that Volunteers living in the Camp cannot attend drills or musketry.

As to the remarks about the repetition of bad shots, it will be easily understood that a man may fire, say today, under fairly good conditions as regards weather &c, and fail; he may be further trained and repeat his course on a day when conditions are less favourable and be a greater failure still although he has a better knowledge of shooting.

As regards the number of rounds fired, the case is different now; a man must fire 28 rounds and obtain 55 points, should he fail to make 55 points, he must repeat the practice, and, should he fail a second time he must again repeat.

Private Campbell, who has since gone to England, is the man referred to as having made fewer than half the points required to pass out of the 3rd Class; this man slipped from the roof of his house and injured his arm, and up to the time he left for England was not able to hold his rifle properly.

Private Spencer went to Sandy Point and did not complete his course.

Private E. Rutter fired only 21 rounds; he went to the camp before the end of the year and had to be classified as non efficient.

The standard for the 3rd Class is now reasonably high and in my opinion, after 4 years experience of the difficulties of Volunteering in the Falklands it would not be wise to increase the compulsory work very much; we might however try next season and work in the second class, but I should not recommend its being made compulsory.

*Grant*

23/10/05

HE

I think a copy of the above might well go home.

*W(172)*  
23 Feb 05

C.S.

Right. it not be better to wait until the Annual Report (1905) is sent home. Please bring up them.

*W2 11*  
28.2.05

A.C.S. Have received N. W. Atkin's report (Annual) and will forward it with covering despatch by next mail to S.S.

If he has a <sup>copy</sup> why he did not include with these papers.

Better file all the Defence Papers together. They might be placed under lock & key in the safe.

*W2 11*  
1.8.05

A. C. S.

Copy of Annual Report  
attached.

1/8/05 - R.M.

H. E.

As pointed out by Mr. Hart Bennett on C.S.No.215/04, there is no safe place for "Confidential Minute Papers" in the office, and that they had better be filed in safe at Government House.



A.C.S.

5/8/05

Copy No 11 of Report on Volunteer Force July 1904  
Remarks by Colonial Defence Committee (362. R)  
filed with Secretary of State's Conf. Dept  
of 21st December 1904. G.R.H.  
28 Aug 1925.

Report on the training of the Falkland Islands Volunteers  
for the year ended 30th June 1904.

1. Owing to none of His Majesty's Ships having been here at the usual time no Inspection has been held.

2. The strength of the Corps on 30th June was as follows:-  
Capt. Sqn. Major, Lieuts, Chaplain, Sgt. Major, N. O. Officers &  
Men.

I            I            I            I            I            80 = 91.

of the above 50 have qualified as efficient in drill and musketry, five others living in Stanley have failed to do so - two on account of being temporarily unfit and three who have been prevented by business. The other non-efficient are all living in the country and cannot attend drill or musketry.

3. The Annual Musketry returns of the Corps are forwarded herewith.

4. Gun drill with the 3.5 B.M.L. Guns is now regularly carried out. Four practices have been held during the year and good shooting made.

5. Aiming and judging distance is carried out although not shown in the list of drills &c. required for efficiency.

6. The Course of Musketry for Trained Volunteers and Recruits has been modified and a copy of the same is forwarded herewith.

7. There is no limit to the allowance of ammunition per man for class firing &c.

8. Two Morris Tubes are being purchased and miniature cartridge practice will be carried out next season. Blank cartridge is only used for ceremonial purposes.

9. The extent of the Rifle range is 1000. The Corps does not possess Running men or Disappearing targets. The Range is about one mile from Head Quarters.

10. Target practice is carried out on Saturday afternoons in the Summer and Autumn. In the Spring most of the Volunteers have to cut and attend to their Peat on Saturday afternoons and in the winter time it is seldom fit to turn out for rifle practice.

11. There is a Rifle Club in the Corps and several of its members are very enthusiastic shots.

1. Aiming and Judging distance.
2. Recruits Course of Musketry should be arranged so as to give progressive training. The ammunition for recruits course could be usefully expended at distances under 600 yards.
3. For the 600 yards practice in the trained soldiers *course* I would substitute practices of the <sup>nature</sup> of the miscellaneous practices laid down in Part II, Table "B", Trainees men's Course, Vol. Musketry Reg. 1903. The courses generally should be remodded on the lines indicated in the Musketry Regulations.
4. The system of enforcing repetition before a man is permitted to fire at the long ranges is excellent.

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Supply the following information with the Musketry

Report:-

1. What are the annual allowance of Ammunition, ball, miniature, and blank, for recruits and trained men respectively?
2. Recruits and trained men: What is the amount of preliminary training required before firing course, i.e., instruction in aiming, the firing exercise, judging distance, fire control, blank firing &c.
3. Give the details of courses of target practice for recruits and trained men ( vide Tables A. & B, Musketry Regulations 1903). Points required for Classification Particulars as to repetition of unsatisfactory practice.
4. What is the extent of the Rifle range accomodation, and distance from Heaq Quarters; is it available for Field Practices?
5. What number of days is allotted to target practice, in the case of trained men and recruits respectively ?

6. What numbers were exercised, and what were the numbers in each class, recruits and trained men respectively?



FALKLAND ISLANDS VOLUNTEERS.

Report on the training of the Falkland Islands Volunteers for the year ended 30th June 1905.

I. The strength of the Corps on the 30th June was as follows:-

Capt.	Sgt.	Lieuts	Chaplain	Sgt.	N.C. Officers	Total.
	Capt.			Major	& Men.	
I	I	I	I	I	91	96

of the above 40 have qualified in drills and musketry, 5 others attending drill joined too late in the season to qualify, 4 have failed to qualify, 2 of whom were unable to attend through pressure of business. The remaining 50 are living in the Country districts and cannot attend drills or musketry. There is a decrease of 10 in the number of efficient as compared with last year, but a certain amount of credit is due for the 5 partly trained men, 3 of whom have passed into the second class in musketry. There were no partly trained men last year in addition to the efficient. The decrease is owing to the following causes:- 1 death, 1 dismissal and 9 were obliged to leave Stanley in search of employment.

2. Owing to none of His Majesty's Ships having visited the Colony during the year the annual inspection of the Corps did not take place.

3. Drill and practice with the 3.5 inch R.M.L. guns has been regularly carried out during the year; four practices were held, two of which were at field-days when the Corps turned out to repel an imaginary hostile landing from a vessel supposed to be anchored off the

South

South shore. Small canvas targets were placed at various points representing the enemy's advance, and at unknown distances. The operations were successful and good practice was made both by gunners and riflemen. These field-days were held by order of the Governor as Commander-in-Chief who accompanied the Corps on both occasions and witnessed the operations.

4. Aiming drill and judging distance practice has been carried out. Morris tube practice was carried out during the latter part of the season and will be continued in the future; a miniature range for the purpose is being erected in the drill room.

5. The Corps does not possess running men or disappearing targets, but one or two field-days with ball ammunition at targets placed at unknown distances will be held in lieu.

6. The musketry course for the coming season will be slightly modified in accordance with the suggestion of the Commandant of the School of Musketry, and all members will be required to pass the second class before being classified as efficient.

7. His Excellency the Governor is taking a very keen interest in the efficiency of the Corps and is giving a valuable Cup annually for General Efficiency; this cup has been very keenly contested this year and will do much for the efficiency of the Corps in the future.

8. The Annual Musketry **Returns** of the Corps are forwarded herewith.

 Lieutenant

For O.C., F.I. Volunteers.

Stanley,

17th July, 1905.