

1881.

NEW ZEALAND.

VOLUNTEER FORCE OF NEW ZEALAND

(REPORT ON).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

The UNDER-SECRETARY for DEFENCE to the Hon. the DEFENCE MINISTER.

SIR,—

Defence Office, Wellington, 1st June, 1881.

I have the honor to forward you returns showing the strength and distribution of the Volunteer Force on the 30th April, 1881, and of the ordnance and small arms on issue in the various districts.

The returns show a decrease of 17 adult and 9 cadet corps, and a total decrease in numbers of 1,325 adults and 966 cadets.

Of the 17 adult corps disbanded, 12 were in the Taranaki and Patea District, and formed part of those which had only been embodied in 1879 for the protection of the district, at a time when serious disturbances with the Natives seemed imminent.

As soon as the continuance of their services no longer existed, the men asked to be disembodied, so that they might be relieved from training and enabled to resume their ordinary avocations, which had been seriously interrupted by the threatened disturbances.

There having been no official inspection of the force during the past year, I called upon Officers Commanding Districts to report upon the state of the corps under their command, and their reports have been generally very satisfactory.

The attendance at drill has been good, and the interest in the Volunteer movement not diminished in consequence of the reduced rate of capitation allowed for the past year.

Facilities have been given for importing regulation uniforms from England, through the Government, on moderate and favourable terms, of which several corps have already availed themselves, and more are anxious to do so.

Camps were held at Easter in the Waikato, at Nelson, and at Oamaru, with considerable success.

The meeting in the Waikato was attended by a total strength of 1,017, furnished from all parts of the Auckland District.

At Nelson the muster was 526, of which upwards of 300 went over from Wellington.

At Oamaru the total number assembled was 1,166, representing corps from Christchurch, Dunedin, Invercargill, and Lake Districts.

The force is now well supplied with small arms, but the want of sufficient light ordnance for the Artillery and Naval Brigades is much felt.

I strongly recommend a revision of the Volunteer Regulations, and that the work be intrusted to a Board of Volunteer officers, of experience in the force, who would be best able to suggest what alterations are required to promote the interest and well-being of the movement.

I have, &c.,

H. E. READER, Lieut.-Colonel,

Under-Secretary, Defence.

The Hon. the Defence Minister, Wellington.

*Return of Small Arms and Ammunition.**Rifles, &c.—In Store and on Issue—*

Snider (all sizes)—On issue	...	..	..	..	6,883
In store	..	..	..	..	3,595
Expected from England*	..	..	..	..	500
Enfield—In store	...	..	...	...	10,326
On issue	...	..	...	...	1,322
<i>Ammunition—</i>					
Snider—In store	...	..	..	..	1,265,884
Enfield—In store	...	...	...	...	204,592

* Since arrived.

Cadet Arms—

Carbines	Muzzle-loaders	On issue	744
		In store ...	67
Ammunition	Terry's "	On issue* ..	769
		In store* ..	156
	Muzzle-loaders	(Enfield ammunition used).	

* For drill purposes only.

RETURN of VOLUNTEERS on 30th April, 1881.

District.	Cavalry.	Artillery.	Engineer.	Rifle.	Naval.	Total.	Cadets.	Remarks.
Auckland ... ..	...	84	86	469	104	743	121	
Waiuku	58	...	...	155	...	213	...	
Waikato	190	...	...	...	...	190	...	
Taranaki	63	...	...	386	...	449	...	
Wanganui, Patea, and Rangitikei	193	...	...	539	...	732	95	
Wellington and Wairarapa..	...	71	59	450	151	731	318	
Napier ... ..	...	61	...	57	...	118	...	
Poverty Bay .. ..	...	75	...	...	...	75	33	
Thames .. ..	...	...	112	434	162	708	93	
TOTALS NORTH ISLAND ...	504	291	257	2,490	417	3,959	660	Decrease since March 31, 1880:—
								<i>North Island.</i>
								Adults ... 1,218
								Cadets .. 210
								<i>South Island.</i>
								Adults ... 107
								Cadets ... 756
Nelson ... ..	...	83	...	163	60	306	75	
Marlborough ... ..	...	...	...	243	...	243	138	
Canterbury	119	119	61	191	91	581	43	
Oamaru ... ..	...	64	...	187	...	251	210	
Dunedin ... ..	...	150	...	557	249	956	567	
Invercargill	147	163	...	120	...	430	46	
Lake ... ..	...	80	...	130	...	210	106	
Westland ... ..	...	...	...	197	...	197	...	
TOTALS SOUTH ISLAND ...	266	659	61	1,788	400	3,174	1,185	
TOTALS ALL NEW ZEALAND	770	950	318	4,278	817	7,133	1,845	

RETURN showing DISTRIBUTION of ORDNANCE.

Distribution.	Armstrong.			24-pr. Howitzers.	7-ton Guns.	64-pr. Guns.	4 $\frac{2}{5}$ Mortars.	Iron Guns, various.
	40-pr.	12-pr.	6-pr.					
Armed Constabulary Force, Taranaki	2	...
Auckland	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	1
Thames	2	...	...	...	...
Gisborne	1	...	...	...	...
Napier	2	...	...	...	2	...
Wellington	4	...	...	...	...	...
Nelson	2	1	...	...	...	...	2
Christchurch	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Timaru	1	...	...	...	1
Oamaru	1	...	...	...	...
Dunedin	2	1	2	...	...	...	2
Port Chalmers	1	...	...	...	2
Invercargill	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
Queenstown	1
On issue to Volunteers ...	1	6	10	10	...	...	4	11
In store	11	11	7	4
Totals	1	6	10	10	11	11	11	15

RETURN of the STRENGTH of the VOLUNTEER FORCE, and How Armed.

District.	Corps.	Lieutenant-Colonel.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Sub-Lieutenants.	Chaplains.	Surgeons & Assist.-Surge.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters and Buglers.	Rank and File.	Total all Ranks.	Suiders.			Cadet Arms.	
														Cavalry Carbines.	Artillery Car- bines.	Rifles.	T.B.L. Carbines.	M.L. Carbines.	Enfield Rifles.
Auckland	Staff												2					
	A Battery			1	1					7	1	73	84	75				
	Engineers			1	1			1		4	1	77	86			84		
	Victoria Rifles			1	1					5	1	77	86			114		
	No. 3 Company Rifles			1	1					7	1	78	89			94		
	Hobson Rifles			1	2	1				4	1	75	84			105		
	Otahuhu			1	1	1				4	1	27	35			40		
	Scottish			1	1	1				3		39	45			54		
	Whangarei			1	1	1				3		42	48			25		45
	Coromandel			1	1	1				5	1	73	82			25		65
	Naval Brigade			1	2	1				6	1	93	104		73			
	Artillery Cadets			1	1	1				3		62	68					
Engineer			1	1	1				5		5	46	53			2	56	
Waiuku	Staff																	
	Waiuku Cavalry			1	1	1				4	1	50	58	68				
	Pukekohe Rifles			1	1	1				3	1	40	47			49		
	Tuakau			1	1	1				3		54	60			53		
Waikato	Wairoa			1	1	1				3		42	48			42		
	Staff																	
Taranaki	Waikato Regiment of Cavalry			1	3	3	3			15	3	162	190	181				
	Staff																	
	Mounted Rifles			1	1	1		1	1	5	1	52	63	88				
	Taranaki			1	1	1				3	1	48	55			57		
	Waitara			1	1	1				2	1	27	32			44		
	Manutahi			1	1	1				4		68	75			70		
	Kent Road Mangorei Rifles			1	1	1				5	1	45	54			51		
	Okato Rifles			1	1	1				2		36	41			60		
	Oakura			1	1	1				2		25	29			28		
	Bell Block Rifles			1	1	1				3	1	24	30			33		
	Urenui			1	1	1				3		11	16			30		
	No. 1 Inglewood Rangers			1	1	1				4	1	46	54			75		
	Staff			1	1	1				1								
	Alexandra Cavalry			1	1	1		1		4	1	36	45	49				2
	Wairoa Light Horse Cavalry			1	1	1				4	1	48	56	70			2	
Hawera			1	1	1				7	1	81	92	89			1		
Wanganui Rifles			1	1	1				6	1	91	102			100			
Wanganui City Rifles			1	1	1				8	1	87	100			100			
Waverley			1	1	1				4	1	34	42			40			
Royal			1	1	1			1	5	1	54	64			72			
Manchester			1	1	1				3	1	53	61			73			
Palmerston North			1	1	1				3		55	62			55			
Patea			1	1	1				6	1	47	57			56			
Normanby			1	1	1				2	1	45	51			67			
Wanganui Cadets			1	1	1				4		35	42				58	1	
Patea			1	1	1				5		45	53	12			50		
Wellington	Staff																	
	D Battery			1	1					7		61	71		70			
	Engineer Sub-Marine Miners			1	1	1		1		4	1	50	59		6		69	
	Wellington City Rifles			1	1	1				8	1	71	83			80		
	Makara			1	1	1				3	1	44	51			59		
	Kaiwarawara			1	1	1				4	1	56	64			49		
	Guards			1	1	1		1	1	6	1	85	97			86		
	Naval Brigade			1	3	1	1	1	1	13	1	130	151		119	1		
	College Cadets			1	1	1				2		52	55					
	Te Aro School Cadets			1	1	1				2		90	91					
	Naval			1	1	1				3		45	50					30
	Mount Cook School Cadets			1	1	1				4		85	92			3		50
	Artillery*																	
	City Rifle*																	
	Wairarapa	Staff																
Greytown Rifles				1	1					5		46	53			75		
Masterton				1	1	1				7	1	40	51					80
Carterton				1	1	1				3	1	44	51					70
Napier	Masterton Cadets			1	1	1				3		34	40					12
	Staff																	
	F Battery			1	1	1			1	4		53	61		53			
Poverty Bay	Napier Rifles			1	1	1		1		5	1	46	57			70		
	Staff																	
Thames	J Battery			1	1	1				5		66	75			100		
	Artillery Cadets			1	1	1				2	1	28	33					48
	Staff																	
	Engineers			1	1	1				8		100	112		119			
	No. 1 Scottish Rifles			1	2	1				6	2	118	130			129		
	No. 2			1	1	3				5		86	96			91		
	No. 3			1	1	1				3	1	37	41			64		
Rangers, Rifles			1	2	1				7	1	103	116			87			
Native			1	1	1				2		46	51			37			
Naval Brigade			1	2	2				9	1	147	162		129				

* Since disbanded.

District.	Corps.	Lieutenant-Colonel.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Sub-Lieutenants.	Chaplains.	Surgeons & Assist.-Surgs.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters or Buglers.	Rank and File.	Total all Ranks.	Sniders.			Cadet Arms.		Enfield Rifles.
														Cavalry Carbines.	Artillery Car-buses.	Rifles.	T.B.L. Carbines.	M.L. Carbines.	
Thames—contd.	Scottish Cadets			1	1	1				3		31	37					43	
Nelson	Naval "			1	1	1				5		49	56					42	
	Staff "			1					1										
	H Battery		1	1	1	1	1	1		7	1	70	83		83				
	City Rifles			1	1	1	1	1		4	1	40	50				70		
	Stoke Rifles			1	1	1				4		58	64				70		
	Waimea Rifles			1	1	1				5	1	40	49			50			
	Naval Brigade			1	1	1		1		4	1	51	60		60				
	City Cadets*																		
	College Cadets			1	1	1				4		34	41					56	
Marlborough	Artillery Cadets*																		
	Staff "																		
	Picton Rifles				1		1	1		5	1	49	58				38		
	Spring Creek Rifles			1	1	1				4		67	74				56		
	Renwick "			1	1	1				4		46	51				35		
	Blenheim "			1	1	1				4		53	60				52		
	Picton Cadets			1	1	1				4		52	59					23	10
	Blenheim Cadets			1	1	1				3		73	79						
Canterbury	Staff "		1	2				1	2										
	Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry			1	1	2				6	2	106	119	59					
	C Battery			1	1			1		6	1	60	70		40				
	E "			1	1			1		4	2	39	49		41				
	Engineers†			1	1				1	6		52	61				32		50
	Temuka Rifles			1	1	1		1		4	1	69	78				43		20
	City Guards Rifles			1	1	1				5	1	47	56				36		70
	Ashburton "			1	1	1				4	1	49	57						60
	Naval Brigade "			1	1			1		6	1	81	91				60		
	Artillery Cadets (Timaru)			1	1				1	1		39	43					37	
	Engineers† "																		
Oamaru	Staff "			1					1										
	I Battery			1	1	1		1		5	1	54	64		50				
	Hampden Rifles			1	1	1				4		36	43				45		
	Oamaru "			1	1	1				6		83	92				89		
	Otepopo "			1	1	1		1		5		43	52			30			
	High School Cadets			1	1	1				4		82	89					30	
	North School "			1	1	1				4		67	74						
	Citizen† "			1	1	1				3		41	47					50	
Dunedin	Staff "			1					4										
	B Battery			1	1	1				5		60	69		100				
	L "			1	1	1		1		6	1	69	81		78				
	City Guards Rifles			1	1	1				5	1	64	93			100			
	North Dunedin Rifles			1	1	1				4	1	50	58				65		
	Waikari "			1	1	1		1		4	1	51	61				76		
	South District "			1	1	1				4	1	42	50				50		
	Clutha "			1	1	1				4		58	65				68		
	Bruce "			1	1	1		1		4	1	48	57				60		
	East Taieri "			1	1	1		1		4	1	61	70				62		
	Portobello "			1	1	1				4		44	51				39		
	Waikouaiti "			1	1	1				4	1	45	52				52		
	Dunedin Naval Brigade			1	3	2		1		15		128	150		81	59			
	Port Chalmers "			1	1	1				6		90	99		77				
	City Guards Cadets			1	1	1				4		37	44					47	
	High School "			1	1	1				4		47	54					49	
	South District School Cadets... ..			1	1	1				5		59	67					44	
	North "			1	1	2				6		90	100					119	
	Middle "			1	1	1				5		92	100					49	
	Normal School Cadets			1	1	1				7		90	100					85	
	Waikouaiti "			1	1	1				3		45	50					40	
	Dunedin Naval "			1	1	1				5		44	52						80
Invercargill	Staff "			1					1										
	Garrison Band									3		28	31						
	Southland Regiment of Hussars		1	1	2	3	2		1	7	1	129	147						
	G Battery			1	1	1				6	1	55	66		80				
	K "			1	1	1				5	1	56	66		75				
	Riverton Rifles			1	1	1		1		5	2	57	68				67		
	Invercargill Rifles			1	1	1		1		4	2	42	52				67		
	Artillery Cadets			1	1	1				3		41	46					60	
Lake	Staff "			1					1										
	M Battery			1				1		5	1	72	80				47		
	Arrow Rifles			1	1	1				5	1	48	57				66		
	Cromwell Rifles			1	1	1		1		5	1	63	73				60		
	Queensdown Cadets			1	1	1				4		46	53					14	
	Arrow Cadets			1	1	1				4		47	53						
Westland	Staff "			1															
	Westland Rifles			1	1	2		1		7	1	123	136				121		
	Greymouth "			1	1	1		1		4		54	61				58		
	Greymouth Cadets*																		

* Since disbanded.

† About to be disbanded.