

1883.  
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, 1883.

Since the date of my last report on the Volunteers of the colony for the year ending the 31st March, 1882, the new regulations for the reorganization of the force, framed under your own personal supervision, were brought into operation on the 1st January last. The old regulations remained in force to the end of the year; the returns to the 31st December, 1882, showing a total strength, inclusive of cadets, of 121 corps, amounting of all ranks to 8,593, as detailed in accompanying return.

This strength has been considerably reduced since the 1st January by the disbandment, at their own request, of many country corps, who did not wish to continue their services, as no longer required for the protection of their districts, and also by the maximum establishment of all corps having been reduced to 63.

Attached are returns showing the strength and distribution of the Volunteer Force on the 31st March, 1883, and of all ordnance, small arms, and ammunition in the colony.

The provisions of the new regulations initiated by you for a thorough reorganization may be briefly summed up as follow:—

Volunteer corps to be divided into two classes, viz.: Garrison or head-quarter corps, and country corps.

Garrison corps, being such as should form part of the fixed establishment, the Government considered necessary for the service of the colony in centres of population.

Country corps, all others in out-districts.

The qualification for capitation for garrison corps: Attendance at twelve Government parades of not less than two hours' duration, one hour of which must be devoted absolutely to drill; four of these parades to be held in daylight; to fire in first and second periods of target practice, and go through the first and second periods of judging-distance practice.

Country corps to attend one inspection of arms, accoutrements, &c., in each quarter, undergo not less than one hour's drill, fire in the first and second periods of target practice, and go through the first and second periods of judging-distance practice.

No parade, drill, or inspection to reckon towards capitation in either garrison or country corps if less than two-thirds of the strength of the corps are present; an increased scale of fines for non-attendance being strictly enforced.

The maximum and minimum strength of corps of all arms to be as follows: Garrison corps—maximum 63, minimum 43; country corps—maximum 50, minimum 30.

Enrolments for untrained men to take place only in the months of January and July in each year, unless specially authorized by the Governor.

Recruits to be formed into squads irrespective of corps, to attend thirty hours' recruit drill, and go through the first and second periods of target and judging-distance practices before being allowed to join the ranks of their corps.

Capitation to be claimed for these recruits provided the period under instruction has not exceeded six months, and a free issue of a serge suit granted to enable them to attend recruit drill in uniform. Men who had previously received a military training permitted to enrol at any period during the year, but they would not receive capitation unless they qualified for it by attending the requisite number of parades.

Officers and non-commissioned officers to undergo an examination, before their appointments are confirmed, in certain subjects specified in the regulations.

Garrison bands only to be permitted in stations where there are four corps or upwards, of a strength in proportion of five men to each corps, to be under the immediate control of the officer in command of the district. Capitation to be granted to bandsmen who attend the proper number of parades, and Government assistance to the extent of £20 afforded towards defraying expenses of professional instruction. At other places, where there are less than four corps, although the proportion of five to a corps will still be allowed, no other assistance granted.

Volunteer corps above the maximum strength laid down in regulations required to reduce their numbers to the fixed establishment before the 31st January, 1883, and adopt such means, by ballot or otherwise, as would be deemed best to carry out the required reduction. Corps failing to do so before the above date to be disbanded, and new corps of the authorized establishment formed in their place.

Cadet corps, except those in connection with schools, to be disbanded. Regulation uniforms to be paid for as heretofore out of capitation, the Government obtaining them from Home on application from corps.

Corps hitherto designated Engineers to cease to be recognized as such. Naval Volunteers to be reconstructed as Naval Artillery Volunteers, on the Home system, to be trained at the four

principal ports in the working of the heavy batteries about to be erected, for which a special allowance will be granted for each drill required of them.

The regulations framed according to these provisions met, I am assured, with general approval with few exceptions throughout the colony, as it was felt by all who had the good of volunteering at heart that they would tend to the establishment of stricter discipline, and therefore greater efficiency, uniformity of dress, and more general attention to training and musketry practice.

The appointment of properly-qualified staff officers to districts has already effected a marked improvement. This is especially apparent in Canterbury, where the interest in Volunteer matters had in past years declined to such an extent that of rifle corps only one existed in Christchurch at the end of last year and for a long time before. On the present regulations coming into effect three new corps were raised at once, and when I passed through Christchurch in April last I was surprised to find them already not only very proficient in company drill, but showing they were rapidly acquiring a knowledge of battalion drill, several movements being executed by the five corps on parade in a manner most creditable to themselves and the officers who trained them.

I heard very good accounts of both the Dunedin and Oamaru corps, but I regret that my visit South on Constabulary matters was so hurried as to give me no opportunity of seeing any of the Southern Volunteers on parade, except in Christchurch as I have stated, where the monthly parade of all corps happened to fall on one of the days I was detained there.

In the North Island I have had no opportunity of seeing anything of the corps since the reorganization, except in Wellington, where I can with confidence assert that the Volunteers were never in a better condition than they are now. An annual inspection of all corps by a thoroughly competent officer would be very desirable, and highly appreciated by all members of the force.

I have, &c.,

H. E. READER, Lieut.-Colonel,  
Under-Secretary for 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	...	...	...	...	...	5,317
In store	...	...	...	...	...	6,129
Enfield—In store	...	...	...	...	...	10,402
On issue	...	...	...	...	...	1,091

*Ammunition*—

Snider—In store	...	...	...	...	...	1,340,296
Enfield—In store	...	...	...	...	...	520,780

*Cadet Arms*—

*Carbines	Muzzle-loaders	On issue	...	...	...	246
		In store	...	...	...	457
	Terry's "	On issue	...	...	...	94
		In store	...	...	...	783

\* For drill purposes only.

RETURN OF VOLUNTEERS to the 31st December, 1882.

District.	Cavalry.		Artillery.		Engineer.		Rifle.		Naval.		Total.		Cadets.	
	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.
Auckland ..	..	..	1	84	1	79	5	367	1	78	8	608	1	57
Waikato ..	..	1	55	..	..	..	1	50	..	..	2	105	..	..
Waikato ..	..	*1	130	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	130	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	2	83	..	..	..	11	460	..	..	13	543	..	..
Wanganui, Patea, and Rangitikei ..	3	200	..	..	..	..	8	624	1	97	12	921	2	122
Wellington ..	..	..	1	87	1	46	4	233	1	203	7	569	3	226
Napier ..	..	..	1	54	..	..	1	41	..	..	2	95	..	..
Poverty Bay ..	..	..	1	101	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	101	..	..
Wairarapa ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	185	..	..	3	185	2	125
Thames ..	..	..	..	..	1	97	2	148	1	160	4	405	1	64
<b>Total N. I. ..</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3,662</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>594</b>
Nelson ..	..	..	1	90	..	..	3	169	1	56	5	315	1	51
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	176	..	..	3	176	2	156
Canterbury ..	1	131	2	163	..	..	3	199	1	67	7	560	1	68
Oamaru ..	..	..	1	78	..	..	3	241	..	..	4	319	2	131
Dunedin ..	..	..	2	122	..	..	9	555	2	260	13	937	7	553
Invercargill ..	*1	150	2	140	..	..	2	195	..	..	5	485	1	106
Lake ..	..	..	1	66	..	..	2	124	..	..	3	190	2	106
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	184	..	..	3	184	..	..
<b>Total S. I. ..</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1,843</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>3,166</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1,171</b>
<b>Grand Total ..</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>3,951</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>6,828</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,765</b>

\* Regiments of Cavalry of three troops each.

## RETURN of VOLUNTEERS to the 31st March, 1883.

District.	Garrison Corps.								Country Corps.	Total.		Cadets.		
	Cavalry.		Naval Artillery.		Artillery.		Rifle Corps.							
	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.*	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.†
Auckland .. .. .	..	..	1	61	1	60	3	190	2	94	7	405	1	40
Waiuku .. .. .	1	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	38	2	93	..	..
Waikato .. .. .	‡3	61	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	61	..	..
Taranaki .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	52	..	..	1	52	1	42
Wanganui, Patea, and Rangitikei	‡3	94	1	63	..	..	3	188	3	109	10	454	2	82
Wellington .. .. .	..	..	1	63	1	56	3	179	§3	109	8	407	3	227
Napier .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	62	1	70	..	..	2	132	..	..
Poverty Bay .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	51	..	..	..	..	1	51	..	..
Wairarapa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	132	3	132	4	188
Thames .. .. .	..	..	1	47	..	..	2	53	..	..	3	100	..	..
TOTALS, NORTH ISLAND ..	7	210	4	234	4	229	13	732	12	482	40	1,887	11	579
Nelson .. .. .	..	..	1	57	1	43	2	110	1	35	5	245	1	55
Marlborough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	44	1	32	2	76	2	118
Canterbury .. .. .	1	51	1	63	2	122	4	273	2	73	10	582	1	68
Oamaru .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	62	1	78	2	69	4	209	2	106
Dunedin .. .. .	1	63	2	124	2	110	4	244	5	182	14	723	5	367
Invercargill .. .. .	1	62	1	58	1	62	1	78	1	43	5	303	1	109
Lake .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	¶3	128	3	128	2	89
Westland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	47	1	42	3	89	..	..
TOTALS, SOUTH ISLAND ..	3	176	5	302	7	399	15	874	16	604	46	2,355	14	912
TOTALS, ALL NEW ZEALAND	10	386	9	536	11	628	28	1,606	28	1,086	86	4,242	25	1,491

\* Includes garrison and local bands.

† Includes new corps since formed.

‡ Includes corps to be disbanded, but not accounted for in "strength."

§ One a naval artillery corps.

|| One corps not yet reorganized, not included in "strength."

¶ One an artillery corps.

## RETURN showing DISTRIBUTION of ORDNANCE on 31st March, 1883.

Distribution.	Armstrong.			24-pr. Howitzers.	7-ton Guns.	64-pr. Guns.	4½ Mortars.	Iron Guns, various.
	40-pr.	12-pr.	6-pr.					
Armed Constabulary Force, Taranaki	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Auckland .. .. .	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1
Thames .. .. .	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Napier .. .. .	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..
Wellington .. .. .	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
Gisborne .. .. .	..	..	*1	1	..	..	..	..
Christchurch .. .. .	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Timaru .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
Nelson .. .. .	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	2
Dunedin .. .. .	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	2
Invercargill .. .. .	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
Oamaru .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Port Chalmers .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Queenstown .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
On issue to Volunteers ..	1	6	10	10	..	..	4	13
In store .. .. .	..	..	..	..	11	11	7	2
Totals .. .. .	1	6	10	10	11	11	11	15

\* Since issued.

RETURN of VOLUNTEERS, and how ARMED.

District.	Corps.	Lieutenant-Colonel.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Adjutants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters or Buglers.	Rank and File.	Total all Ranks.	Sniders.			Cadet Arms.		Enfield Rifles.	C. F. Revolvers.	Swords.
												Cavalry Carbines.	Artillery Carbines.	Rifles.	M. L. Carbines.	T. B. L. Carbines.			
Auckland	Staff				1	1					2								
	Naval Artillery			1	2			6	1	51	61		63						
	A Battery			1	2			5	1	51	60		60						5
	Victoria Rifles			1	2			5		53	61			60					
	City Guards Rifles			1	2			5	1	45	54			59					
	Hobson Rifles			1	3			4	1	43	52			52					
	Garrison Band										23								
	Whangarei Rifles			1	2			4		35	42			39					
	Coromandel			1	2			3		46	52			47					
	Artillery Cadets			1	2			2		35	40		40						
Waiuku	Waiuku Cavalry			1	2			4	1	47	55	63					63	60	
	Wairoa Rifles			1	2			3	1	31	38		50						
Waikato	Staff						1			1									
	Te Awamutu Cavalry			1	2			5	1	51	61	54					52	58	
	Cambridge Hamilton																		
Taranaki, Patea, Wa- nganui, and Rangitikei	Staff			1			1				2								
	Alexandra Cavalry			1	2			5	1	46	55	65					2	58	67
	Wairoa Light Horse			1	2					36	39	72						59	
	Hawera																		
	Naval Artillery			1	2			5	1	54	63		60						
	Wanganui Rifles			1	2			4	1	55	63			63					
	Taranaki			1	2			5	1	43	52			50					
	Wanganui City Rifles			1	2			4	1	44	52			63					
	Patea Rifles			1	2			5	1	45	54			63					
	Garrison Band										19								
	Royal (Marton) Rifles			1	1			4	1	30	37			50					
	Palmerston North Rifles			1	2			4	1	29	36			50					
	Manchester Rifles			1	2			5		28	36			52					
	Wanganui Collegiate School Cadets										50								
	New Plymouth High School Cadets†											42							
Wanganui High School Cadets†											32								
Wellington	Staff		1			1	2				4								
	Naval Artillery			1	2			4	1	55	63		63						
	D Battery			1	1			7		47	56		63						
	Wellington City Rifles			1	1			4		50	56			63					
	Guards			1	1			4	1	44	51			52					
	Wellington Rifles			1	2			5	1	44	53			50					
	Garrison Band										19								
	Petone Naval Artillery			1	2			4	1	38	46		49						
	Makara Rifles			1	2			3	1	26	33			36					
	Kaiwarawara Rifles			1	2			3	1	23	30			46					
	College Cadets			1	2			4		84	91		50						
	Te Aro School Cadets			1						53	54		25						
	Mount Cook School Cadets			1	2			4		75	82		20	3	50				
	Wairarapa	Staff		1			1					2							
Greytown Rifles				1	2			4	1	31	39			50					
Masterton				1	2			4	1	45	53			50					
Carterton				1	2			4	1	32	40			50					
Masterton School Cadets				1	2			5		59	67		10		47				
Greytown				1	2			4		32	39		10		50				
Napier	Carterton										38								
	Featherston										44								
	Staff			1			1				2								
	F Battery			1	2			3	1	55	62		63						
Poverty Bay	Napier Rifles			1	1			5	1	52	60			60					
	Band										10								
Thames	Staff			1							1								
	J Battery			1	2			5	1	42	51			63					
	Naval Artillery			1	1			3	1	41	47		78						
Nelson	Ranger Rifles			1	2			4	1	45	53			63					
	Hauraki			1	2								61						
	Staff			1			1				3								
	Naval Artillery			1	2			6		48	57		60						
	H Battery			1				6		36	43		60						
	City Rifles			1	1			5	1	46	54			60					
	Stoke			1	1			2	1	34	39			60					
	Garrison Band										17								
Marlborough	Waimea Rifles			1	2			3	1	28	35			49					
	College Cadets			1	2			3		49	55		56						
	Staff			1							1								
	Blenheim Rifles			1	2			1		40	44			60					
	Spring Creek Rifles			1	2			2		27	32			50					
	Blenheim School Cadets			1	2			5		89	97		8						
Tuamarina										21									

\* About to be disbanded.

† New corps.

‡ Not yet organized.

## RETURN of VOLUNTEERS, and how ARMED—continued.

District.	Corps.	Lieutenant-Colonel. Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Adjutants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters or Buglers.	Rank and File.	Total all Ranks.	Sniders.			Cadet Arms.		Enfield Rifles.	C. F. Revolvers.	Swords.	
											Cavalry Carbines.	Artillery Car- bines.	Rifles.	M. L. Carbines.	T. B. L. Carbines.				
Canterbury	Staff	1		1	2					4									
	Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry		1						50	51	59								61
	Lyttelton Naval Artillery		1	1			5	1	55	63		63							
	C Battery		1	1			3	1	53	59		62							
	E "		1	1			5	2	54	63		61							
	City Guards Rifles			1	1		4	1	55	62			63						
	Christ's College Rifles			1	2				59	62			60						
	Christchurch			1	2				60	63			63						
	Sydenham			1	2				60	63			63						
	Garrison Band									23									
	Temuka Rifles				2			4	32	38			51						
	Ashburton Rifles			1	2			4	28	35			50						
	Christ's College Cadets			1	2			2	62	68		60							
	Oamaru	Staff		1			1				2								
I Battery			1	1			4		56	62		61							
Oamaru Rifles			1	2			3	1	55	62			63						
Band									16										
Hampden Rifles				1	2			3	28	34			50						
Otepopo				1	2			4	27	35			50						
High School Cadets				1	2					59		15		30		*15			
Oamaru North School Cadets				1	1					47		15							
Dunedin	Staff	1		1	3					5									
	Dunedin Cavalry		1	2			5	1	54	63	63								63
	Dunedin Naval Artillery		1	2			5	1	54	63		64							
	Port Chalmers Naval Artillery		1	2			6	1	51	61		64							
	B Battery		1	2			4	1	50	58		63							
	L "		1	2			4	1	44	52		47							
	City Guards Rifles			2			5	1	49	57			57						
	North Dunedin Rifles			1	2			5	1	43	52			53					
	Waikari Rifles			1	2			4	1	43	51			51					
	South Dunedin Rifles			1	2			5		46	54			57					
	Garrison Band									30									
	Bruce Rifles			1	2			3	1	25	32			32					
	East Taieri Rifles			1	2			4		31	38			38					
	Clutha			1	2			4		27	34			33					
	South District Rifles			1	1			3		29	34			34					
	Waikouaiti			1	1			4		38	44			44					
	High School Art Cadets†																		
	North District School Cadets			1	2			5		92	100		15						
	South District "			1	2			5		59	67		6						
	Middle District "			1	2			5		92	100		7						
Normal School Cadets			1	2			6		91	100									
Invercargill	Staff		1			1				2									
	Southland Hussars			1	2			7	1	51	62	79							106
	Bluff Naval Artillery			1	2			5	1	49	58		56						
	G Battery			1	2			5	1	53	62		63						
	Invercargill Rifles			1	2			5	1	54	63			63					
	Band									15									
	Riverton Rifles			1	2			4	1	35	43			50					
	Central School Art Cadets			1	2			5	1	100	109		6			58			
	Staff						1				1								
	M Battery			1	1			4	1	40	47		40	11					
Lake	Arrow Rifles			1	2			4	1	27	35			50					
	Cromwell Rifles			1	2			5	1	37	46			50					
	Queenstown School Cadets			1	1					38		5		6		*16			
	Arrow School Cadets			1	2					51		5							
	Staff									1									
Westland	1st Westland Rifles			1	2			4	1	39	47			63					
	Kumara Rifles			1	2			3	1	35	42			48					
	Greymouth Rifles†																		

\* Lancaster Rifles.

† About to be disbanded.

11-11-11