

SESS. II.—1884.

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, 1884.

I have the honour to submit returns showing the strength and distribution of the Volunteers on the 31st March, 1884; and also of all descriptions of ordnance, small arms, and ammunition on issue and in store in the colony.

The new regulations which came into force on the 1st January, 1883, the results of which could not be judged until the commencement of the present year, appear to have worked satisfactorily. The suggestions for amendments received from the staff-officers of the various districts have been slight, but will form a subject for your consideration, as well as the necessity of a few slight amendments in the Act, which, if approved by you, for submission to Parliament, would enable the regulations to work smoothly, and obviate the misunderstandings occasionally raised upon technical points.

The returns show that, under the new regulations issued by you, out of a force of all arms, amounting to 4,332 members, 3,394 fulfilled the conditions and became efficient during the past year, as detailed below:—

	Strength on Dec. 31, 1883.	Efficient.	Non-efficient.
Cavalry	379	285	94
Naval Artillery	530	419	111
Artillery... ..	634	513	121
Garrison Rifle	1,621	1,363	258
Country Corps	1,168	814	354
	4,332	3,394	938

Samples of Morris's tubes, a recent invention largely patronized at Home for assisting Volunteers to carry out a course of musketry instruction in their drill-sheds, have been forwarded to the several districts, which, if generally adopted, should be a great convenience to the Volunteers, as enabling them to carry out their practice in all weathers at convenient times, and obviating the necessity of members having to travel long distances to their several ranges, with the chance of being interrupted by bad weather.

These tubes, carrying a miniature cartridge, are easily adjusted to any breach-loading arm, and only require a range of 30 feet; the usual sighting is used, and the ordinary extractors act precisely in the same manner on the tubes as on the arm without the tube.

An additional advantage is that, although giving an equal result in the practice, the ammunition costs but one-fourth of the ordinary Snider ammunition.

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	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,019
" " In store	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,422
Enfield—In store	...	...	...	...	...	...	256
Ammunition—							
Snider—In store	...	...	...	...	...	...	939,785
Enfield—In store	...	...	...	...	...	...	107,355
Cadet Arms—							
*Carbines, muzzle-loaders—On issue	...	...	...	...	...	...	245
" " In store	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

* For drill purposes only.

RETURN of VOLUNTEERS to the 31st March, 1884.

District.	Cavalry.		Naval Artillery.		Artillery.		Rifle.		Country Corps.		Total.		Cadets.	
	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength*	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.
Auckland ..	..	..	2	107	1	55	3	194	2	87	8	443	..	..
Waikato ..	..	63	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	36	2	99	..	..
Waikato ..	†3	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	50	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	52	..	..	1	52	1	48
Patea ..	..	47	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	36	3	83	..	..
Wanganui ..	..	61	1	50	..	..	2	141	..	..	4	252	1	64
Rangitikei ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	158	3	158	..	..
Wellington ..	..	..	1	63	1	61	3	178	†3	105	8	407	3	136
Wairarapa ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	132	3	132	4	222
Napier ..	..	..	..	..	1	52	1	73	..	..	2	125	..	..
Poverty Bay ..	..	..	..	..	1	38	..	..	..	..	1	38	..	..
Thames ..	..	..	1	53	..	..	1	51	..	..	2	104	..	..
Total N.I. ..	7	221	5	273	4	206	11	689	13	554	40	1,943	9	470
Nelson ..	..	..	1	47	1	37	2	112	1	36	5	232	1	51
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	52	1	34	2	86	2	123
Canterbury ..	1	57	1	60	2	96	4	219	2	79	10	511	1	58
Oamaru ..	..	..	..	..	1	56	1	73	2	87	4	216	3	186
Dunedin ..	1	63	2	126	2	98	4	273	5	186	14	746	4	367
Invercargill ..	1	51	1	49	1	62	1	77	1	40	5	279	..	..
Lake ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	§3	125	3	125	2	79
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	121	1	54	3	175	..	..
Total S.I. ..	3	171	5	232	7	349	15	927	16	641	46	2,370	13	864
Totals all N.Z. ..	10	392	10	555	11	555	26	1,616	29	1,195	86	4,313	22	1,334

* Includes garrison and local bands.

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

‡ One a Naval Artillery corps.

§ One an Artillery corps.

RETURN showing DISTRIBUTION of ORDNANCE on 31st March, 1884.

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	..	..	..	..	3
Thames	2	..	..	..	..
Napier	2	..	..	..	2	..
Wellington	4	..	..	..	..	..
Gisborne	1	..	..	..	..	..
Christchurch	1	..	2	..	..	..	..
Timaru	1	..	..	..	2
Nelson	2	1	..	..	..	..	2
Dunedin	2	..	3	..	..	..	4
Invercargill	1	..	1	..	..	..	1
Oamaru	1	..	..	..	..
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

RETURN of VOLUNTEERS, and how ARMED, 31st March, 1884.

District.	Corps.	Lieutenant-Colonel.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Adjutants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters or Buglers.	Rank and File.	Total all Ranks.	Sniders.			Cadet Arms— M.L. Carabines.	C. F. Revolvers.	Swords.
												Cavalry Carabines.	Artillery Carabines.	Rifles.			
Auckland	Staff		1				1				2						
	Auckland Naval Artillery			1	2			5	1	50	59		61				
	Devonport Naval Artillery				2					46	48						
	A Battery			1	2				5	1	46	55	58				
	Victoria Rifles			1	2				5	55	63			66			
	City Guards Rifles			1	1			2	1	40	45				57		
	Hobson Rifles			1	3			4	1	52	61				63		
	Garrison Band									25	25						
	Whangarei Rifles			1	2			4		38	45				39		
Waiuku	Coromandel Rifles			1	2			2		37	42			49			
	Waiuku Cavalry			1	2			4	1	55	63	63			63	60	
Waikato	Wairoa Rifles			1	2			3	1	29	36			40			
	Staff		1				1			2							
	Te Awamutu Cavalry			1	2			5	1	40	50	50			49	50	
Taranaki, Wanganui, Patea, and Rangitikei	Cambridge										2						
	Hamilton										4				4	6	
	Staff			1			1			2							
	Alexandra Cavalry			1	2			5	1	52	61	65			58	67	
	Wairoa Light Horse			1	2			5	1	38	47	61				61	
	Wanganui Naval Artillery			1	2			5	1	41	50		57				
	Wanganui Rifles			1	2			5	1	49	58			62			
	Taranaki Rifles			1	2			3	1	45	52			49			
	Wanganui City Rifles			1	2			5	1	51	60			63			
	Garrison Band									23	23						
	Patea Rifles			1	1			2	1	31	36			57			
	Royal (Marton) Rifles			1	2			4	1	49	57			50			
	Palmerston North Rifles			1	2			4	1	46	54			50			
	Manchester Rifles			1	2			4	1	39	47			50			
	Wanganui Collegiate School Cadets			1	2			5	1	55	64		50				
	New Plymouth High School Cadets			1	2			4		41	48		30				
	Wellington	Staff		1				2			4						
Wellington Naval Artillery				1	2			5	1	54	63		63				
D Battery				1	1			5		54	61		63				
Wellington City Rifles				1	1			5	1	48	56			63			
Guards				1	2			5		44	52			60			
Wellington Rifles				1	2			5	1	37	46			57			
Garrison Band										26							
Petone Naval Artillery				1	2			4	1	42	50		49				
Makara Rifles				1	2			3	1	14	21			36			
Kaiwarawara Rifles				1	2			2	1	28	34			46			
College Cadets				1	2			1		117	121		50				
Te Aro School Cadets				1						55	56		25				
Mount Cook School Cadets				1	2			4		62	69		20	3	50		
Wairarapa		Staff		1				1			2						
	Greytown Rifles			1	2			4	1	30	38			40			
	Masterton Rifles			1	2			3	1	45	52			50			
	Carterton Rifles			1	1			4	1	35	42			50			
	Masterton School Cadets			1	2			5		65	73		10		47		
	Greytown School Cadets			1	1			4		49	55		10		40		
	Carterton School Cadets			1	2			3		37	43		10		30		
	Featherston School Cadets			1	2			4		44	51		10		38		
Napier	Staff		1				1			2							
	F Battery			1	1			5	1	44	52		63				
	Napier Rifles			1	2			5	1	54	63			60			
	Band									10							
Poverty Bay	Staff			1						1							
	J Battery			1	2			1		34	38		63				
Thames	Staff						1			1							
	Thames Naval Artillery			1	1			3	1	47	53		63				
Nelson	Ranger Rifles			1	2			5	1	42	51			63			
	Staff			1			1			3							
	Nelson Naval Artillery			1	2			5	1	38	47		58				
	H Battery			1	2			4		30	37		59				
	City Rifles			1	2			4	1	40	48			60			
	Stoke Rifles			1	2			4	1	44	52			60			
Marlborough	Garrison Band									12							
	Waimea Rifles			1	2			3	1	29	36			49			
	College Cadets			1	2			2		46	51		55	1			
	Staff		1							1							
	Blenheim Rifles			1	2			5	1	43	52			49			
	Spring Creek Rifles			1	2			3		28	34			38			
Canterbury	Blenheim School Cadets			1	2			5		89	97		8				
	Tuamarina School Cadets			1				2		23	26		8				
	Staff		1				1			2							
	Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry			1	1			4	1	50	57	63				60	
	Lyttelton Naval Artillery			1	2			5	1	51	60		63				

* About to be disbanded.

RETURN of VOLUNTEERS, and how ARMED, 31st March, 1884—*continued.*

District.	Corps.	Lieutenant-Colonel.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Adjutants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters or Buglers.	Rank and File.	Total all Ranks.	Sniders.			Cadet Arms— M.L. Carbines.	C. F. Revolvers.	Swords.
												Cavalry Carbines.	Artillery Carbines.	Rifles.			
Canterbury— <i>continued</i>	C Battery			1	1			5		43	50		60				
	E Battery			1	2			5	1	37	46		61				
	City Guards Rifles			1	2			3	1	38	45				63		
	Christ's College Rifles			1	2			4	1	42	50				60		
	Christchurch Rifles			1	2			5		45	53				63		
	Sydenham Rifles			1	2			5	1	44	53				63		
	Garrison Band																
	Temuka Rifles				2			4	1	32	39				50		
	Ashburton Rifles			1	2			4	1	32	40				50		
	Christ's College Cadets			1	2			4		51	58		60				
Oamaru	Staff		1				1				2						
	I Battery			1	2			5	1	47	56		64		63		
	Oamaru Rifles			1	2			4	1	55	63				63		
	Band										17		5		7		12
	Hampden Rifles			1	2			2		40	45				50		
	Otepopo Rifles			1	2			4	1	34	42				50		
	High School Cadets			1	2			3		59	65		15		30		
	North School Cadets			1	2			3		46	52		15				
	South School Artillery Cadets			1	2			4		62	69						
	Staff		1				1	3			5						
Dunedin	Dunedin Cavalry			1	2			5	1	54	63	63					63
	Dunedin Naval Artillery			1	2			5	1	54	63		63				
	Port Chalmers Naval Artillery			1	2			5	1	54	63		59				
	B Battery			1	2			4	1	39	48		63				
	L Battery			1	2			4	1	42	50		44				
	City Guards Rifles			1	2			5	1	52	61				57		
	North Dunedin Rifles			1	2			5		53	61				63		
	Waikari Rifles			1	2			4	1	45	53				51		
	South Dunedin Rifles			1	2			4	1	51	59				56		
	Garrison Band										39						
	Bruce Rifles			1	2			4	1	29	37				32		
	Clutha Rifles			1	1			4		28	34				33		
	East Taieri Rifles			1	1			4		41	47				44		
	South District Rifles			1	2			2		27	32				34		
	Waikouaiti			1	2			4	1	28	36				44		
	North District School Cadets										67		15				
	South District School Cadets										100		6				
	Middle District School Cadets										100		7				
	Normal School Cadets										100		7				
	Invercargill	Staff		1				1			2						
Southland Hussars				1	2			3		45	51	66					106
Bluff Naval Artillery				1	2			5	1	40	49		56				
G Battery				1	2			5	1	53	62		63				
Invercargill Rifles				1	2			5	1	50	59				63		
Lake	Band									18				15			
	Riverton Rifles			1	2			4	1	32	40				50		
	Staff						1			1							
	M Battery			1	2			4	1	35	43		40		1		
	Arrow Rifles			1	2			3	1	31	38				50		
	Cromwell Rifles			1	2			4	1	36	44				50		
Westland	Queenstown School Cadets			1	2			3		33	39		5				
	Arrow School Cadets			1	2			3		34	40		5				
	Staff				1					1							
	1st Westland Rifles			1	2			3	1	52	59				63		
Westland	Kumara Rifles			1	2			4	1	46	54				50		
	Greymouth Rifles			1	2					59	62				63		