

(2.) WELLINGTON DISTRICT.

The cavalry and mounted rifle companies are generally in a satisfactory state, and have considerably improved since I last reported. The Alexandra Cavalry and Hawera Mounted Rifles are very good.

There are four naval artillery companies.

The Wellington Navals is a most excellent Volunteer company. It is affiliated to the heavy guns, and possesses 65 very well-trained and 30 partially-trained men.

The Petone Navals is a very good company, having 48 well-trained and 23 partially-trained men.

The Wanganui and Napier Naval Companies are purely infantry companies.

The D Battery is armed with 4 6-pr. Nordenfeldt field-guns. It is the most efficient of the field batteries in the colony.

The F Battery has 6-pr. R.B.L. guns, which are useless. The officers, non-commissioned officers, and men take great interest in theoretical work, but cannot be given any practice.

There are nine rifle companies in the district. A very general and considerable improvement has taken place since I last inspected. More infantry instruction is much needed. Sergeant-Major Finn is very capable, and a very hardworking instructor.

The Taranaki, Wanganui, and Napier Districts have been absorbed into the Wellington District, under Lieut.-Colonel Newall, who is a very hardworking and good officer.

Major Wood, who is in charge of the Napier Sub-district, is a very good officer, taking much interest in his work.

Major Ellis does what he can to further Volunteer interests.

Inspection of Volunteer Corps in Wellington District.

Wellington District.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers, Rank and File.	Total.	At Inspection.	Qualified for Capitulation.	Unqualified.	Remarks.
Cavalry and Mounted Rifles—							
Alexandra Cavalry ...	3	55	58	50	48	10	A very good corps.
Wairoa Mounted Rifles	2	49	51	30	43	8	Fair.
Heretaunga Mounted Rifles	2	40	42	24	31	11	Good.
Hawera Mounted Rifles	3	68	71	41	38	33	Very good.
Manawatu Mounted Rifles	2	49	51	36	35	16	Good.
Total ...	12	261	273	181	195	78	
Naval Artillery—							
A. Wellington Navals ...	3	95	98	82	84	14	Excellent.
Petone Navals ...	3	71	74	62	65	9	Very good.
B. Wanganui Navals ...	2	63	65	54	63	2	Very good infantry company.
Napier Navals ...	3	49	52	41	50	2	Good infantry company.
Total ...	11	278	289	239	262	27	
Field Artillery—							
D Battery ...	2	58	60	53	59	1	Very good.
F Battery ...	3	45	48	40	42	6	Good theoretically and at gun drill. The battery is, however, useless, the guns being unserviceable.
Total ...	5	103	108	93	101	7	
Infantry Companies—							
Royal Rangitikei Rifles...	3	56	59	44	57	2	Very good.
Wellington City Rifles ...	2	64	66	63	61	5	Very good indeed.
Wanganui Rifles ...	3	60	63	63	63	...	Very good indeed.
Taranaki Rifles ...	3	57	60	50	59	1	Good; much improved.
Napier Rifles ...	3	48	51	48	48	3	Much improved.
Palmerston North Rifles	3	60	63	56	60	3	Good.
Manchester Rifles ...	3	52	55	51	47	8	Good.
Wellington Guards ...	3	63	66	42	54	12	Good.
Hastings Rifles ...	2	46	48	44	35	13	Improving.
Total ...	25	506	531	461	484	47	
Grand Total ...	53	1148	1201	974	1042	159	

This is a very excellent record. About 84 per cent. capitated. About 81 per cent. were present at inspection.