

(3.) CANTERBURY DISTRICT.

The Canterbury Yeomanry is a very good corps; much improved since I last reported.

The mounted rifle company is improving.

The Lyttelton Navals and the N Battery Garrison Artillery are much improved. They are affiliated to the heavy guns, but still have very few men who have qualified as gunners.

The Timaru Navals is simply a very good infantry company.

The C and E Batteries possess good knowledge theoretically and at gun drill, but practical work is much needed. They are armed with 9-pr. R.B.L. guns. Neither battery has any service ammunition on charge, nor is there any means of carrying any except in the limbers.

The Canterbury Engineers is a good company, but has rather gone backwards.

The nine infantry companies have generally improved, the Christchurch City Guards and the Timaru rifle companies being very good.

The district is fortunate in having Majors Slater, Moore, and Francis amongst its Volunteer officers. No difficulty should be experienced in forming a battalion.

Lieut.-Colonel Gordon, commanding the district, works well.

The infantry instructors are good.

Inspection of Volunteer Corps in Canterbury District.

Canterbury District.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers, Rank and File.	Total.	At Inspection.	Qualified for Capitulation.	Unqualified.	Remarks.
Cavalry and Mounted Rifles— Canterbury Yeomanry ...	4	69	73	61	61	12	Very good. I was unable to inspect this corps during its training this year. Good.
Christchurch Mounted Rifles	2	51	53	33	32	21	
Total ...	6	120	126	94	93	33	
Naval Artillery— A. Lyttelton Navals ...	1	65	66	48	59	7	Good; much improved. Very good as an infantry company.
B. Timaru Navals ...	2	79	81	67	66	15	
Total ...	3	144	147	115	125	22	
Field Artillery— C Battery ...	2	56	58	50	50	8	Good; wanting practical knowledge. Good; wanting practical knowledge.
E Battery ...	2	57	59	45	46	13	
Total ...	4	113	117	95	96	21	
Garrison Artillery— N Battery ...	2	52	54	44	32	22	Improving.
Engineers— Canterbury Engineers ...	3	64	67	39	62	5	A good company.
Rifle Companies— Christchurch City Guards	3	65	68	52	62	6	Very good.
Temuka Rifles ...	2	48	50	45	46	4	Fairly good.
Ashburton Rifles ...	2	60	62	65	61	1	Good.
Christ's College Rifles ...	3	62	65	40	53	12	Good.
Christchurch City Rifles	1	63	64	38	50	14	Good.
Timaru Rifles ...	2	77	79	63	64	15	Very good.
Kaiapoi Rifles ...	2	74	76	54	73	3	Very good.
Waimate Rifles ...	2	47	49	38	43	6	Fairly good.
Rangiora Rifles ...	2	48	50	29	46	4	Fairly good.
Total ...	19	544	563	424	498	65	
Grand Total ...	37	1037	1074	811	906	168	

This is a very good record. The total strength of corps at my inspection was 856, of whom 811 were present. Eighty-four per cent. earned capitulation.