

Captain JULIAN LLEWELLYN DOVE examined. (No. 24.)

320. *The Chairman.*] You are captain of what corps?—The Hunterville Mounted Rifles.

321. Did you attend the encampment at Newtown Park in June last in command of that corps?—Yes.

322. What strength had you in camp?—We came in sixty-eight strong.

323. Had you sufficient tent accommodation for your men?—Yes; we had eight in a tent.

324. Had they sufficient straw?—Yes.

325. What were the rations like?—The quality of the meat was not, on the whole, good; but in going round the tents of my own company at meal-times I only once received a complaint from one tent that the rations were unsuitable.

326. Were the tents visited after each meal?—During each meal.

327. By yourself or your subaltern?—Either by myself or by one of my subalterns.

328. You saw some of the meat that was cooked?—Yes.

329. What was the condition of the cooking?—I think the actual cooking was satisfactory.

330. Was it done?—I think it was done, and well done.

331. Did that apply to the joints or larger pieces of meat?—I do not remember seeing any joints. They were mostly comparatively small hunks.

332. Are you speaking of the officers' mess?—No; I am speaking only of the men.

333. Had the men sausages or chops?—Yes; either sausages or chops for breakfast.

334. Were they properly cooked?—Yes, so far as my knowledge goes.

335. Were the rations sufficient in quantity for the men?—On the whole, I should say they were, unless their orderlies happened to be last. I could not answer for the last orderlies.

336. What about the bread?—The bread and butter were both good and plentiful.

337. And the potatoes?—The men had them on one day only, and then they were not well cooked.

338. What was the tea or coffee like?—The men reported to me subsequently—they did not report it at the time—that they could not drink the tea.

339. Did you see it?—I did, but I am sorry I did not taste it. I tasted similar stuff in the officers' mess, and can corroborate what the men said.

340. Was any formal complaint made to you by any of your men as to the food supplied to them?—No, with the exception of those in the one tent I have mentioned.

341. Did you make any formal complaint to any superior officer?—No; for the reason that I saw that those things that needed remedy most were under the colonel's own eye. I believe it was the morning subsequent to the one on which I received the complaint from my men that the colonel was at the receiving place to inquire into the quality and quantity of the rations.

342. What was wrong, in your opinion?—The want of vegetables and the bad quality of the meat.

343. Do you know what day it was the colonel was there?—No; I have no note of it.

344. How about the forage for the horses: was that sufficient in quantity?—Yes; but not always obtainable at the right time.

345. What was the quality of it?—Satisfactory.

346. Do you know where it was issued from in the camp?—Yes; the store-tent.

347. Do you know whether it was always issued from there?—No.

348. Do you know whether it was ever intercepted by any of the corps before it got there?—

Yes.

349. Did that occur on more than one occasion?—I cannot say.

350. Did the horses of your corps go short at all, or had they sufficient?—On the Monday morning, the 17th June, there were no oats obtainable in time for our morning feed. We had run out, and I sent out for 8 bushels. I have got the receipt with me. That was the morning of the rehearsal, and I had to feed my horses before they went to it.

351. Had you to get any other provisions for your horses or men?—No.

352. Did your officers sleep in camp?—Yes.

353. How many men did you furnish for a guard?—A sergeant and three men.

354. That was your proportion of the guard?—Yes; another company had to supply a corporal and three men.

355. What about the water in the camp?—There was too much of it.

356. But the water for drinking and cooking purposes?—I heard no complaints about it.

357. Could you get water for your horses whenever it was wanted?—There was one day when the pipe burst and the water-trough ran short; but I rather think that was the day after my horses had gone. I am not quite sure.

358. Used you to get your orders from the Brigade Office regularly?—When I first went into camp I went into Colonel Sommerville's office and took a copy of the orders he had written out then, and subsequently I issued company orders founded on the orders given to me in camp; but I cannot say I saw any other written orders beyond those of the first day. I think, however, so far as my recollection serves me, they were given out in the proper channel through the orderly sergeant.

359. But then they would be reported to you?—Yes.

360. Do you know what staff was appointed by Colonel Sommerville for the camp?—He had Lieutenant Fitzherbert acting as adjutant, I suppose you would call it.

361. Was it not notified to you what Lieutenant Fitzherbert was?—No. And he distinctly appointed a quartermaster—Lieutenant Thurston.

362. Was there any other officer appointed by Colonel Sommerville beyond those?—Not that I ever heard of, with the exception of the battalion commandants.