

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 252.

The following Reports on the Hongkong Volunteer Corps are published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 4th June, 1898.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

(From The General Officer Commanding in China and Hongkong to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Hongkong.)

HEAD QUARTER OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 30th April, 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose the Commandant's report of the training of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps for the season 1897-98.

2. I made the annual inspection of the Corps on the 14th instant, when the men turned out well and looked healthy and fit for work; with one exception they performed their drill on the uneven parade ground in a satisfactory manner.

3. The 7-pr. Guns, Maxims, Arms, and Equipment appear to be in a serviceable condition, but I understand from the Commandant's report that the carbines are old and worn out. I have already communicated with the Colonial Government on this subject and recommended that the Corps be re-armed with either the 303 Lee-Metford Carbine or the Martini-Enfield Carbine.

4. I observe, with great pleasure, that Gun Practice with the Field Battery and Maxim Guns has taken place far more frequently than in any former drill season, that the members of both units take great interest in these practices and are shooting better; which is after all the main object of Volunteer training.

5. The annual camp of instruction at Stonecutters' Island was again well attended in October, and the Commandant's report shows that the practical duties of Outpost, Reconnoitring, Field Firing, etc., practised there have borne good results, in addition to which the nine days outing is greatly appreciated by all ranks and doubtless helps recruiting and engenders a soldierly spirit.

6. Several men were absent from the General Inspection Parade.

7. I recognize the zeal and energy of Major Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, and am glad to find that he is so well supported by the Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers under his command in all that concerns the welfare of the Corps; in fact, the smallness of numbers is the main fault that can be urged against the Hongkong Volunteers,—a shortcoming which, I trust, all ranks will do their best to remedy.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

W. BLACK,
Major-General.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.
TRAINING 1897-98.

(From the Commandant, Hongkong Volunteers Corps, to the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General (A) and Chief Staff Officer, China.)

VOLUNTEER HEAD QUARTERS,
HONGKONG, 18th April, 1898.

1. Nominal Roll of Efficientes, Field Battery.
2. Nominal Roll of Efficientes, "A" Machine Gun Company.
3. Report on Gun Practice, Field Battery.
4. Report on Gun Practice, "A" Machine Gun Company.
5. Musketry Return, Field Battery.
6. Musketry Return, "A" Machine Gun Company.
7. Return of Revolver Practice of Officers and Staff Sergeants.
8. Copy of Inspection State.
9. State of Corps, 16th April, 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith the documents mentioned in the margin relating to the training of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps for the season 1897-98 for the information of His Excellency the General Officer Commanding and for favour of transmission to His Excellency the Governor.

ESTABLISHMENT.

2. A comparison of Enclosure No. 9 with the corresponding document for the training of 1896-97 shows that the total strength of the Corps is now 176, of all ranks as against 159 of all ranks at the former date. This is the greatest strength to which the Corps has yet attained since its re-organization in 1893.

During the season 4 members have died, 1 has been dismissed, 1 has been struck off the strength, and 32 have resigned. Of the resigning members 20 have left the Colony, and 3 have been discharged on medical certificate. 55 new members have been enrolled.

The Field Battery now numbers 120, as compared with an Establishment of 80 as fixed by the existing Regulations of the Corps.

The "A" Machine Gun Company has, I believe for the first time, been recruited up to its full strength, and now numbers 51 of all ranks.

The establishment of the Corps makes provision for three Machine Gun Companies, and the requisite guns for them all are in stock. It was hoped that during the season another Company might have been formed, but no steps have been taken in this direction for two reasons; first, because it was thought desirable to await the coming into force of the proposed new Regulations, and, secondly, because the local Government has repeatedly and emphatically expressed its desire that no expenditure should take place in excess of the sum voted for the Volunteers.

3. Some months ago a small Drum and Fife Band, consisting of 22 enrolled members of the Corps and 1 unenrolled boy signaller, was formed, principally through the exertions of Battery Sergeant-Major DUNCAN and Sergeant-Drummer HAYWARD. The Band has attained a fair degree of proficiency, and its services are highly appreciated by the members of the Corps.

4. During the season the question of the formation of a small Engineer Company of the Corps has been under consideration, but a final decision has not yet been reached.

5. There have been several changes among the Officers of the Corps during the season.

His Excellency Sir W. ROBINSON, G.C.M.G., Honorary Colonel of the Corps, left the Colony and vacated his appointment on the 1st February, 1898.

In the Field Battery Captain J. McCALLUM, who had been placed on the Supernumerary List, resigned his commission on the 18th January, 1898, on being posted to a Battery of Volunteer Artillery in Scotland. This Officer, whose service dates as far back as May, 1878, has done much good work for the Corps. Lieutenant A. CHAPMAN was promoted Captain to command the Field Battery when Captain McCALLUM was placed on the Supernumerary List.

On the 28th November, 1897, Lieutenant W. K. WYLIE died, under melancholy circumstances, to the great regret of all ranks of the Corps. The vacancy caused by his death was filled on the 3rd February, 1898, by the appointment of Mr. M. W. SLADE to be Lieutenant.

Lieutenant H. E. DENSON, who was, on the 21st March, 1896, seconded for a period of two years, was struck off the strength of the Corps from the 21st March, 1898, as being absent without leave.

6. In the "A" Machine Gun Company Sergeant E. D. SANDERS was gazetted Captain on the 22nd July, 1897, in succession to Captain C. M. ADAMSON, resigned, and Sergeant G. C. FULLERTON was gazetted Lieutenant on the 30th April, 1897, in succession to Lieutenant A. MCP. MARSHALL, resigned.

DISCIPLINE, TRAINING, AND INSTRUCTION.

7. The discipline of the Corps has been uniformly good throughout the season.

8. The usual drills and musketry practices have been well attended. Under this head the figures for the two units are severally as follows:—

Field Battery—

74 have become Efficient with more than 40 drills.

21 have become Efficient with less than 40 drills.

25 are Non-Efficients.

120

"A" Machine Gun Company—

26 have become Efficient with more than 40 drills.

12 have become Efficient with less than 40 drills.

13 are Non-Efficients.

51

Of the 25 non-efficients in the case of the Field Battery, 2 are absent from the Colony on leave, 7 are absent from the Colony without leave, 4 are recruits who have not had sufficient time since joining to complete their drills, 4 are on medical certificate, and the remaining 8, although in the Colony, have not completed the requisite number of drills.

In the case of the 13 non-efficient of the "A" Machine Gun Company, 1 is absent from the Colony on leave, 7 are absent from the Colony without leave, 2 are recruits who have not had sufficient time since joining to complete their drills, 1 is on medical certificate, and the remaining 2, although in the Colony, have not completed the requisite number of drills.

9. In October, 1897, a Camp of Instruction was held under canvas during a period of nine days on Stonecutters' Island. The use of the Naval Range, of the 64-pounder Gun Battery, and of the Depression Range Finding Instruments on the Island was kindly lent by the Naval and Military Authorities. The Camp was well attended and may be described as successful in every way. To its success I attribute in great measure the activity in recruiting which prevailed during the latter part of the season. I desire to record my deliberate opinion that the holding of the Annual Camp of Instruction is an important factor in the well-being of the Corps, from the point of view of its popularity as well as of its efficiency.

10. A perusal of enclosures 3 and 4 will show that gun practice has taken place more frequently in the past season than in previous years, and there is no doubt that the members of the two units have in consequence become more efficient in this important branch of their training.

In the various competitions a keen spirit of rivalry has been shown by the several detachments engaged, and the shooting has been for the most part good.

In the 64-pounder Gun Competition which was held at Stonecutters' Island on the 22nd January, 1898, No. 1 detachment, commanded by Sergeant G. C. HAYWARD, again secured the first place.

Competitions have also taken place at Repulse Bay for prizes given by the Honourable J. J. BELLIRVING, Mr. T. JACKSON, and the Commandant. In the case of the "A" Machine Gun Company the competition was held by detachments on the 12th March, 1898, and resulted in the victory of No. 4 Detachment, commanded by Sergeant E. C. SHEPHERD. The Field Battery held their competition by sections on the 16th instant, when No. 1 section, commanded by Lieutenant W. MACHELL, were the winners.

A report of the 64-pounder Gun Competition was forwarded to His Excellency the General Officer Commanding on the 31st January, 1898; a brief report on all the gun practices during the season was forwarded on the 15th instant; and that of the 7-pounder and Maxim Gun competitions will be forwarded in a few days.

11. A successful Carbine competition in connexion with the Corps was held on the 19th and 26th March, 1898, when a number of prizes were competed for. The members of the Corps are very grateful to the many kind donors of prizes.

12. Revolver practice by the Officers and Staff Sergeants has been continued during the season, and good shooting has generally been made.

13. There have been no operations at a distance from Head Quarters for which it was necessary to employ coolie draught.

SERVICES.

14. Captain L. A. C. GORDON, Royal Artillery, the Adjutant of the Corps, continues to show great interest in the performance of his duties, and in particular the arrangements which he has made and carried out for the several competitions have been satisfactory to all ranks.

During his temporary absence on leave in Japan in 1897, his duties were efficiently performed by Captain A. CHAPMAN.

15. The other officers of the Corps also continue to render excellent service. By their devotion to duty they set an admirable example to the non-commissioned officers and men under their command, and they avail themselves of every opportunity to promote the efficiency of the Corps. The best relations exist between them and the subordinate ranks.

16. Corps Quarter-Master Sergeant G. W. WATLING has rendered very efficient service in connexion with the Camp of Instruction and the several competitions, and in the performance of his duties generally.

17. There have been several changes among the Instructors of the Corps, but I am glad to say that the new as well as the old Instructors have proved themselves painstaking and efficient and have discharged their duties to my entire satisfaction.

18. The non-commissioned officers and men of the Corps have, with few exceptions, attended drills regularly and shown a praiseworthy desire to make themselves smart and efficient. Their conduct and good feeling in Camp and on all other occasions has been exceedingly good. I am especially glad to be able to say that talking in the ranks on parade is much less frequent than it used to be, and I am in hopes that this unsoldierlike practice will soon disappear altogether.

REGULATIONS.

19. In my last report I held out the promise that the proposed new Regulations for the Corps would shortly be drafted and submitted for approval. But I regret to say that the pressure of other duties has prevented me from fulfilling this promise. I am, however, sensible that the matter is one of considerable importance, and I will endeavour to prepare the draft as soon as possible.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

20. The annual inspection of the Corps by His Excellency the General Officer Commanding took place on the 14th instant. The parade state on that occasion is shown in enclosure No. 8.

21. A course of lectures on ambulance work, accompanied with stretcher drills, has again been held by Surgeon-Lieutenant STEDMAN. 17 members joined the class, 13 of whom presented themselves at the examination, which was conducted by Surgeon-Captain CLARKE, A.M.S. Of the examinees 11 were successful and received certificates of proficiency.

22. I have to request that the Chief Ordnance Officer, China, may again be asked to keep up the usual quantities of Martini-Henry Carbine ball and blank ammunition and of 7-pounder and 64-pounder R.M.L. gun ammunition for the use of the Corps, to be indented for as required on repayment. I have further to beg that the Carbine ammunition may be of the latest date of manufacture.

23. The local Government was good enough to sanction the expenditure of a special sum of \$650 for the purchase of carbine ammunition for the purpose of enabling members to procure ammunition for practice at a cheaper rate than that which formerly obtained, namely, at the price of \$2.50 per 100 rounds instead of \$4.00 per 100 rounds. The result of this liberal measure has been seen in a considerable improvement in the shooting of the Corps, and a large number of recruits have made good progress with their musketry.

24. In my last report I drew attention to the service-worn condition of the Martini-Henry Carbines belonging to the Corps. During the season these weapons were examined by the Ordnance Department, and, with four exceptions, they were all condemned as unfit for service. The question of re-arming the Corps with a more efficient weapon has been engaging the attention of the Imperial and Local Governments, and I trust the proposals which have been made to that end may soon be carried into effect.

25. A Committee of Officers has been recently engaged in considering the question of the uniform of the several grades of the Corps with a view to its simplification and cheapening; their recommendations will be embodied in the new draft Regulations.

26. Requisitions for the Capitation Grant for Efficients have been sent direct to the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer.

27. It will, I think, be gathered from the preceding paragraphs of this report and from the enclosures to it that the progress of the Corps during the season has been steady and continuous. It is true that its course is not free from difficulties, but I am satisfied that, with self-denying effort on the part of the members of the Corps and with good-will and interest on the part of the Government, the Legislature, and the general public, these difficulties will not prevent the Corps from attaining a high standard of efficiency—a standard which, I feel sure, is the aim of all who are connected with it.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. CARRINGTON, Major,
Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure 1.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

FIELD BATTERY.

Nominal Roll of Efficient for the Year ending 16th April, 1898.

Corps Number.	Rank and Name.	Corps Number.	Rank and Name.
	Major Carrington, Sir J. W., Commandant.	145	Gunner Crispin, C.
	Captain Gordon, L. A. C., Royal Artillery, Adjutant.	10	„ Craddock, H. E.
	Surgeon-Captain Lowson, J. A.	243	„ Dean, J. T.
	„ -Lieutenant Stedman, F. O., Medical Officers.	238	„ Donaldson, T.
	Quarter-Master Sergeant Watling, G. W., Corps Quarter-Master Sergeant. (5 Staff.)	50	„ Ellis, O. J.
	Captain Chapman, A.	267	„ Ellis, D. E.
	Lieutenant Machell, W.	158	„ Gidley, H.
	„ MacDonald, D.	271	„ Gidley, S. M.
	„ Slade, M. W. (4 Officers.)	242	„ Giller, H. L.
	Battery Sergeant-Major Duncan, G. L.	248	„ Gubbins, J.
11	Battery Quarter-Master Sergeant Coyle, J.	148	„ Gilchrist, J.
9	Sergeant-Drummer Hayward, S. W.	265	„ Gregson, E.
144	Sergeant Hayward, G. C.	220	„ Hatherly, E. W. F.
18	„ McPhail, H.	231	„ Higgins, F.
118	„ Armstrong, J. H. W.	200	„ Hart, W.
3	„ Kennett, H. W.	149	„ Hance, C. E. A.
24	„ Purcell, W. H.	272	„ Herbst, E.
34	„ Henderson, J.	150	„ Henderson, R.
119	„ Rutter, R. V.	186	„ Hance, J. H. R.
109	Corporal Meek, T.	269	„ Humphreys, A.
127	„ Humphreys, W. M.	251	„ Kennedy, D. F.
49	„ Bamsey, W. F.	252	„ Lammert, L. E.
4	„ Stopani, W. A.	223	„ Lysaught, J.
40	„ White, G.	240	„ McIver, M.
105	„ Brown, A.	210	„ MacKie, A. J.
153	„ Gow, D.	160	„ Melbourne, C. A. D.
101	Bombardier Nobbs, A. P.	141	„ Moller, J. A.
204	„ Smart, C. McD.	124	„ McLeish, P.
191	„ Buck, R. S.	273	„ Moore, H. R. C.
190	„ Deas, W. M.	126	„ Nolan, T.
100	„ Baker, J.	102	„ Patton, G.
249	„ Wilson, G. T.	241	„ Reid, A.
179	Gunner Belilios, R. E.	222	„ Richardson, F.
209	„ Bridger, H. B.	205	„ Sanderson, J. S.
132	„ Bentley, R. J. H.	106	„ Stewart, W.
197	„ Burgess, J. R.	163	„ Sutton, A. L.
257	„ Brett, L. E.	180	„ Swanston, J. G.
198	„ Bew, W. E.	192	„ Seth, S. A.
193	„ Begley, A. J.	256	„ Seth, H. A.
116	„ Barry, J.	151	„ Sayer, E. A. R.
161	„ Bevan, H. S.	247	„ Toller, W.
166	„ Bevan, W. S.	201	„ Thomson, W. M.
176	„ Bevan, R. S.	41	„ Toppin, W. J.
250	„ Barker, J. E.	187	„ Uphill, A.
254	„ Baker, W. A.	236	„ Watson, W.
268	„ Cotton, J. T.	155	„ Warren, C. E.
213	„ Crook, G. T.	206	„ Wilkinson, S.
175	„ Curran, T.	211	„ Woolen, J.
109		215	„ Wolfe, H.
		221	„ Yule, T.
		263	Trumpeter Plinston, C.
		264	„ Moore, S. R.

(91 Non-Commissioned Officers and Men.)

J. W. CARRINGTON, Major,
Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure 2.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"A" MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

Nominal Roll of Efficientes for the Year ending 16th April, 1898.

Corps Number.	Rank and Name.	Corps Number.	Rank and Name.
...	Captain Sanders, E. D.	244	Gunner Danby, J. D.
...	Lieutenant Maitland, F.	235	" Ellis, A.
...	" Fullerton, G. C.	174	" Hornby, T. W.
	(3 Officers.)	262	" Hursthouse, H.
96	Sergeant Crombie, H.	227	" King, W.
122	" Lammert, G. P.	173	" Nicholson, W.
86	" Shepherd, E. C.	230	" Northcote, M. S.
114	Corporal Rankin, J.	169	" Potts, R. H.
137	" Bowley, F. B. L.	170	" Plummer, J. A. T.
146	" Gillingham, J. R.	214	" Pumfrett, A.
185	" Skelton, A. H.	218	" Reeves, H.
182	" Allen, H. E.	233	" Smith, E. J. Grant
196	" Underwood, J. H.	234	" Smith, H. Grant
172	Gunner Arthur, H.	246	" Smith, A. Brooke
261	" Aitken, J. H. E.	162	" Stevens, G. R.
237	" Barrett, E. G.	195	" Stevens, T. L.
217	" Capell, J. R.	228	" Thomson, O. D.
226	" Crawford, L.	245	" Watson, Maxwell
229	" Cumpston, W. H.	216	" Wetenhall, E. B.
232	" Chisolm, F. W.		(35 Non-Commissioned Officers and Men.)

N.B.—Staff of Corps shown with Field Battery.J. W. CARRINGTON, Major,
Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure 3.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

FIELD BATTERY.

Report on Gun Practice carried out during the Year ending 16th April, 1898.

Nature of Practice.	Date on which Practice was carried out.	Number Present on Parade.	Number of Rounds fired.	Range.	General Idea of Practice.
7-Pr. R.M.L. Guns, 200 lbs.,...	16th Oct., 1897.	91	60	Yards. 800 and 1,400	Practice at an imaginary enemy landing in sampans, from East Shore, Stonecutters' Island, during Camp of Instruction.
7-Pr. R.M.L. Guns, 200 lbs.,...	1st Jan., 1898.	50	33	1,150	To repel an enemy landing on beach in Repulse Bay.
64-Pr. R.M.L. Guns, 64 cwt.,	22nd Jan., 1898.	86	76	2,100	To repel ships attempting to enter the Harbour, from South Shore Battery, Stonecutters' Island, (Chinese New Year).
7-Pr. R.M.L. Guns, 200 lbs.,...	5th March, 1898.	52	27	1,300	To repel an enemy attempting to land in boats, from road in front of North Point Battery.
7-Pr. R.M.L. Guns, 200 lbs.,...	16th April, 1898.	59	43	1,150 and 1,350	To repel and drive back to boats an enemy attempting to land at Repulse Bay.

J. W. CARRINGTON, Major,
Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure 4.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"A" MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

Report on Gun Practice carried out during the Year ending 16th April, 1898.

Nature of Practice.	Date on which Practice was carried out.	Number Present on Parade.	Number of Rounds fired.	Range.	General Idea of Practice.
0.45" Maxim M.H. Chamber, Machine Gun.	16th Oct., 1897.	36	1,966	800 to 1,400	Practice at an imaginary enemy landing in sampans, from East Shore, Stonecutters' Island, during Camp of Instruction.
Do.,	27th Nov., 1897.	28	1,427	500	To repel a body of men who had under cover advanced to within 500 yards, on Police Range, Kowloon.
Do.,	1st Jan., 1898.	20	1,514	800 to 1,050	An enemy having landed, to stop and drive them back to their boats, at Repulse Bay.
Do.,	22nd Jan., 1898.	27	4,000	800 to 1,050	Do.
Do.,	5th Mar., 1898.	23	1,000	1,300	To repel an enemy attempting to land in boats, from road in front of North Point Battery.
Do.,	12th Mar., 1898.	33	2,050	700 to 1,000	To drive back 4 parties of an enemy, who had effected a landing, to their boats, at Repulse Bay.

J. W. CARRINGTON, Major,
Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure 5.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

FIELD BATTERY.

Musketry Return, showing Percentage and Classification for the Year ending 16th April, 1898.

	Number Firing.	Number of Points obtained.	Percentage.	Classification.			Remarks.
				1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	
Recruits' Course,	48	1,245	46.31	25	9	14	
Trained Soldiers' Course, ...	*88	2,966	40.12	35	24	29	
Total.....	136	4,211	...	60	33	43	

* This includes a few Recruits who also fired Trained Soldiers' Course.

J. W. CARRINGTON, Major,
Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure 6.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

“A” MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

Musketry Return, showing Percentage and Classification for the Year ending 16th April, 1898.

	Number Firing.	Number of Points obtained.	Percentage.	Classification.			Remarks.	
				Marks-men.	1st Class.	2nd Class.		3rd Class.
Recruits' Course,	20	540	48.21	...	12	5	3	
Trained Soldiers' Course, ...	*37	1,142	36.75	5	8	8	16	
Total,.....	57	1,682	...	5	20	13	19	

* This includes a few Recruits who also fired Trained Soldiers' Course.

J. W. CARRINGTON, Major,
Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure 7.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Revolver Practice Return, showing Percentage for the Year ending 16th April, 1898.

	Number Firing.	Number of Points obtained.	Percentage.	Remarks.
Staff,	5	154	64.16	
Field Battery,.....	7	244	72.52	
“A” Machine Gun Company,.....	3	112	77.77	
Total,.....	15	510	70.83	

J. W. CARRINGTON, Major,
Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure 8.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Inspection State, 14th April, 1898.

State of Corps.	Staff.		Field Battery.		“A” Machine Gun Co.		Total.	Remarks.
	Officers.	N. C. Officers.	Officers.	N. C. Officers and Men.	Officers.	N. C. Officers and Men.		
Present on Parade,.....	4	1	4	90	2	30	131	* This Total does not include— 8 unenrolled Boy Signallers. 1 unenrolled Boy Trumpeter.
{ with leave in Colony, .....	...	...	...	4	...	3	7
Absent { with leave out of Colony, ...	...	...	1	3	1	7	12
{ on medical certificate,.....	...	...	...	6	...	...	6
{ without leave,.....	...	...	...	13	...	8	21
Total,.....	4	1	5	*116	3	48	177	

J. W. CARRINGTON, Major,
Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.