

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION,---No. 401.

The following Reports on the Hongkong Volunteer Corps are published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 15th July, 1899.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

*From the General Officer Commanding in China and Hongkong,
To His Excellency the Governor, Hongkong.*

HEAD QUARTER OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 3rd May, 1899.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose the Commandant's report of the training of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps for the season of 1898-99.

I made the Annual Inspection of the Corps on March 29th. There were very few absentees, the men turned out well, their arms and equipment clean, their drill good. I was therefore pleased with the Inspection. But previous to the Inspection I had given several opportunities to the Corps to turn out at their own hour, to act in conjunction with the Regular Troops, and I confess that I was disappointed at finding that comparatively small numbers availed themselves of the opportunity presented to them.

I think that perhaps there had sprung up a feeling that the services of the Hongkong Volunteers were not as highly appreciated as I, at any rate, do rate and appreciate the importance of their services in this Colony.

Seeing this I took the opportunity of placing Colonel MAINWARING, Commanding 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers, in temporary Command, in place of Major Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, who had gone on leave.

The result of the energy displayed by this officer is already most apparent, and I look forward to increased efficiency and strength during this forthcoming year. It will be my duty as it is my pleasure to encourage this to the utmost of my ability.

I would call special attention to my previous letters respecting the advisability of hastening the issue of the already approved Small Arms, and also that the Maxims and 7-pounder guns shall be replaced by more modern weapons.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

W. J. GASCOIGNE,
Major-General.

His Excellency

Major-General GASCOIGNE, C.M.G.,

Sc., Sc., Sc.

I am glad to find so favourable a report and I fully appreciate the interest taken in the force by Your Excellency and the energy shown by Colonel MAINWARING.

* * * * *

H. A. BLAKE,
Governor.

6th May, 1899.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS,
TRAINING, 1898-1899.

*From Colonel R. B. Mainwaring, Acting Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps
To the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General (A) and Chief Staff Officer, China.*

VOLUNTEER HEAD QUARTERS,
VICTORIA, 17th April, 1899.

- 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 of 1898-99 for the information of His Excellency the Major-General Commanding and for favour of transmission to His Excellency the Governor.
1. Nominal Roll of Efficient, Field Battery.
 2. Nominal Roll of Efficient in "A" Machine Gun Company.
 3. Report on Gun Practice, Field Battery.
 4. Report on Gun Practice, "A" Machine Gun Company.
 5. Return of Revolver Practice of Officers and Staff Sergeants.
 6. Copy of Inspection State.
 7. State of Corps 16th April, 1899.

ESTABLISHMENT.

2. It will be seen by Enclosure 7, with the corresponding document for the training 1897-98, that the total strength of the Corps is now 181 of all ranks, as against 176 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 past season, 3 members have died, 12 have been struck off the strength for non-efficiency, and 26 have resigned. Of the resigning members, 12 have left the Colony and 1 has been discharged on Medical Certificate. 46 new members have been enrolled.

The Field Battery now numbers 117 and the "A" Machine Gun Company numbers 58 as compared with an Establishment of 80 and 51 respectively.

The new draft Regulations submitted to you under this Office No. 37 of 4th instant make provision for 3 Machine Gun Companies (the requisite guns for them are all in stock) and also a small Engineer Company. Immediately on the approval of the Governor-in-Council to these Regulations, I shall proceed to raise the Engineer Company and every endeavour will be made to raise the other 2 Machine Gun Companies during the ensuing drill season.

3. The Fife and Drum Band of the Corps is making great effort to obtain proficiency and the draft Regulations submitted allow of its existence, and give substantive rank to the Non-Commissioned Officers employed with it.

The thanks of all Ranks of the Corps are especially due to the Officers Commanding the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment and the 2nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers for so kindly lending their Bands to the Corps on the many occasions found necessary and also the services of their Sergeant Drummers as Instructors, who have brought the Fife and Drum Band of the Corps up to the standard of efficiency it has reached.

4. The changes among the Officers of the Corps during the season have been :—

His Excellency Sir W. ROBINSON, G.C.M.G., Honorary Colonel of the Corps, vacated his appointment on the 31st January, 1899, and not as stated in the last Training Report of the Corps.

His Excellency Sir H. A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of this Colony and its dependencies, has very kindly accepted the appointment of Honorary Colonel to the Corps.

Captain L. A. C. GORDON, Royal Artillery, Adjutant of the Corps, resigned his appointment on the 10th April, 1899, on proceeding to England on leave. This Officer during his services as Adjutant to the Corps extending over a period of 4½ years, has done much good work for the Corps, and his departure is much regretted by all Ranks.

Captain W. ST. C. BLAND, Royal Artillery, took over the duties of Adjutant of the Corps from 11th instant.

Surgeon-Lieutenant F. O. STEDMAN, M.D., (Lond.), was promoted to Surgeon-Captain on the 15th February, 1899.

Mr. A. H. LEE-NORMAN was appointed Supernumerary Lieutenant in the Field Battery on the 25th November, 1898, and was appointed Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor; this Officer resigned his Commission on the 4th February, 1899, on leaving the Colony.

Captain E. D. SANDERS, "A" Machine Gun Company, was appointed an Honorary Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor on the 9th instant.

DISCIPLINE, TRAINING, &c.

5. The discipline of the Corps has been exceptionally good throughout the season.

6. The usual Squad, Carbine, Company, Gun drills and practices have been well attended. Musketry drills have been performed but no Musketry practices, as by Home Volunteer Regulations these are not now required to enable Artillery Volunteers to become efficient although every effort has been made, and with good success, with the several carbine competitions held by each unit during the season.

Under the head of Drills the figures for the two existing units are as follows :—

Field Battery—

68 have become Efficient with more than 40 drills.

25 have become Efficient with less than 40 drills.

24 are Non-Efficients.

117

" A " Machine Gun Company—

26 have become Efficient with more than 40 drills.

17 have become Efficient with less than 40 drills.

15 are Non-Efficients.

58

Of the 24 non-efficients of the Field Battery 14 are absent from the Colony without leave, 2 are on Medical Certificate, and the remaining 8 although in the Colony have not completed the requisite number of drills and will be called upon to show cause of non-efficiency.

In the case of the 15 non-efficients of the " A " Machine Gun Company, 5 are absent from the Colony on leave, 5 are absent from the Colony without leave, 1 is a recruit who has not had sufficient time since joining to complete his drills, 1 is on medical certificate, and the remaining 3 although in the Colony have not completed the requisite number of drills, and will be called upon to show cause of non-efficiency.

7. From the 22nd to the 31st October, 1898, a Camp of Instruction was held under canvas on Stonecutters' Island. The use of the Naval Range was kindly lent by the Naval Authorities. The Camp was well attended and much appreciated by all. The Camp year by year seems more popular and to it much of the efficiency of the Corps is attributed.

8. Gun practices have taken place as shewn in Enclosures Nos. 3 and 4.

No practice was held this past season with the 64-pounder R.M.L. Guns, as orders were given that they were to be dismantled.

The 7-pounder R.M.L. and Machine Gun Competitions were held at Repulse Bay on the 10th February last, and the shooting was good and a great improvement on past years. A report of which competition was forwarded to His Excellency the General Officer Commanding under this Office No. $\frac{37}{99}$ of 24th February, 1899.

9. The annual Carbine Competition in connection with the Corps was held on the 15th instant, and will be continued on the 22nd instant. A large number of valuable prizes have again been presented for which all Ranks are grateful.

10. Revolver practice by the Officers and Staff Sergeants has been held, report as Enclosure No. 5.

11. Coolie draught was tried once during the past season in conveying guns, targets, etc., to Repulse Bay on 10th February last, but much time was lost and it cost more than conveyance by water.

SERVICES.

12. Captain W. ST. C. BLAND, Royal Artillery, who took over the Adjutancy of the Corps on 11th instant, has entered into his duties with zeal and enthusiasm, and promises to be as popular with all Ranks as Captain GORDON, Royal Artillery, the late Adjutant.

13. Captain A. CHAPMAN, Field Battery, was one of the Committee appointed to enquire into the interior economy, etc., of the Corps, which report was approved by Government, and which dealt fully with, I think, every question appertaining to the Corps.

The Officers of the Corps also continue to render good service; they set an admirable example to the Non-Commissioned Officers and Men under their command, and do as much as possible to promote the efficiency of the Corps.

14. Corps Quartermaster Sergeant G. WATLING has discharged his duties in a most satisfactory manner, and has rendered very efficient service in connection with the various gun practices, competitions, etc., during the year, and particularly at the Camp of Instruction.

15. The Instructors for the Field Battery, "A" Machine Gun Co., Band, Signalling, and Ambulance Classes, have proved themselves very efficient and painstaking, and have discharged their duties to my entire satisfaction.

16. The Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Corps have, with few exceptions attended regularly and shewn a praiseworthy desire to make themselves smart and efficient; their conduct and good feeling in Camp and on all occasions has been exceedingly good.

REGULATIONS.

17. The proposed new Regulations for the Corps were, after many various alterations and after much care and thought on the part of Major Sir J. W. CARRINGTON, Knt., C.M.G., submitted through you for His Excellency the General Officer Commanding, and His Excellency the Governor-in-Council's approval on the 4th instant.

The recommendations of the Committee held last year on the interior economy, etc., of the Corps, and sanctioned by C.S.O. No. 2581, dated 17th January, 1899, have been embodied in them.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

18. The Annual Inspection of the Corps by His Excellency the Major-General Commanding was held on the 29th ultimo.

The parade state on that occasion is shewn in Enclosure No. 6.

19. Surgeon-Captain F. O. STEDMAN, M.D. (Lond.), again conducted a course of lectures on Ambulance Work, accompanied with Stretcher Drills. 9 members presented themselves for examination, which was conducted by Major WATSON, R.A. Medical Corps; of the examinees 8 were successful.

20. I have to request that the Chief Ordnance Officer, China, may be asked to keep up the usual quantities of 7-pounder R.M.L. Gun Ammunition for use of the Corps, to be indented for as required on repayment. Very little more Martini-Henry Carbine Ammunition, ball or blank, will, it is thought, be required by the Corps as the re-arming with the new Carbine of .303 calibre has been sanctioned, and it is hoped they will be received during the ensuing summer.

21. The Local Government having sanctioned the proposals of the Committee held on the 29th September, 1898, it is felt that the result of their proposals cannot fail to add to the general efficiency of the Corps.

22. During the past season attention has been drawn to the necessity for the re-arming of the Field Battery with a more modern gun than the 7-pounder R.M.L. in their possession. The question has been gone into fully (*Vide* this Office No. $\frac{53}{9}$ dated 15th March, 1899,) and it is hoped that the newest pattern gun may be supplied to the Corps.

23. Attention has also been drawn (*Vide* this Office No. $\frac{27}{9}$, dated 14th February, 1899,) to the unserviceable state of the 120 Machine Gun belts on Corps charge, and the question of replacing the .45 with .303" barrels to the 12 machine guns on Corps charge has also been gone into (*Vide* this Office No. $\frac{88}{5}$, dated 17th April, 1899).

24. The report of the Committee of Officers of the Corps on the question of uniform of the several ranks of the Corps was embodied in the new draft Regulations submitted recently for approval.

25. Requisitions for the Capitation Grant for Efficient and Proficient have been sent direct to the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer.

26. It will be seen from this report that the progress of the Corps remains good and the interest shewn by the Government and the Legislature during the past season cannot but have a good effect on the Corps in general.

Major Sir J. W. CARRINGTON, Knt., C.M.G., and Commandant, proceeded on leave on the 5th instant, from which date I assumed command.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. MAINWARING, Colonel,
Acting Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure No. 1.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

FIELD BATTERY.

Nominal Roll of Efficient for the Year ending 16th April, 1899.

Corps Number.	Rank and Name.	Corps Number.	Rank and Name.
	Colonel Mainwaring, R. B., 2nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, Acting Commandant.	243	Gunner Dean, J. T.
	Captain Bland, W. St. C., Royal Artillery, Adjutant.	238	" Donaldson, T.
	Surgeon-Captain Lowson, J. A.	50	" Ellis, O. J.
	" -Lieutenant Stedman, F. O. Medical Officers.	267	" Ellis, D. E.
	Quarter-Master Sergeant Watling, G. W. Corps Quarter-Master Sergeant. (5 Staff.)	282	" Farr, A. J. M.
	Captain Chapman, A.	231	" Higgins, F.
	Lieutenant Macdonald, D.	269	" Humphreys, A.
	" Slade, M. W. (3 Officers.)	270	" Hadden, G. M. P.
11	Acting Battery Sergeant-Major Duncan, G. L.	272	" Herbst, E.
9	" Battery Quarter-Master Sergeant Coyle, J.	220	" Hatherly, E. W. F.
153	" Sergeant-Drummer Brown, A.	275	" Howorth, H. C.
18	Sergeant Hayward, G. C.	149	" Hance, C. E. A.
118	" McPhail, H.	186	" Hance, J. H. R.
3	" Armstrong, J. H. W.	150	" Henderson, R.
24	" Kennett, H. W.	302	" Hubbard, A.
34	" Purcell, W. H.	301	" Kennett, H. S.
107	Acting Sergeant Rutter, R. V.	251	" Kennedy, D. F.
127	Corporal Meek, T.	252	" Lammert, L. E.
49	" Humphreys, W. M.	159	" Lammert, H. A.
4	" Bamsey, W. F.	223	" Lysaught, J.
40	" Stopani, W. A.	259	" Lee, J. R.
105	" White, G.	278	" Lapsley, R.
101	Acting Corporal Gow, D.	283	" Logan, J. C.
249	" Baker, J.	293	" MacDonald, W. J.
204	Bombardier Nobbs, A. P.	313	" Mody, J. H.
191	" Smart, C. McD.	240	" McIver, M.
100	" Deas, W. M.	210	" Mackie, A. J.
179	Acting Bombardier Wilson, G. T.	141	" Moller, J. A.
200	" Hart, W.	124	" McLeish, P.
263	Trumpeter Plinston, C.	318	" Millar, J.
264	" Moore, S. R.	306	" Olson, J.
305	Gunner Abraham, E.	301	" Pidgeon, J. H.
197	" Bentley, R. J. H.	102	" Patton, G.
277	" Benning, T.	241	" Reid, A.
190	" Brett, L. E.	106	" Stewart, W.
116	" Begley, A. J.	163	" Sutton, A. L.
315	" Baker, F. H.	205	" Sanderson, J. S.
257	" Burgess, J. R.	192	" Seth, S. A.
166	" Bevan, H. S.	256	" Seth, H. A.
268	" Baker, W. A.	317	" Spittles, B. J.
229	" Cumpston, W. H.	151	" Sayer, E. A. R.
286	" Craig, R. H.	247	" Toller, W.
279	" Chunnutt, A. E.	311	" Tuohy, G.
300	" Chunnutt, F. G.	276	" Taylor, W. C.
213	" Cotton, J. T.	201	" Thomson, W. M.
145	" Crispin, C. R.	41	" Toppin, W. J.
10	" Craddock, H. E.	187	" Uphill, A.
		155	" Warren, C. E.
		206	" Wilkinson, S.
		280	" Wynne, H. S.
		287	" Wheeler, H. S.

(90 Non-Commissioned Officers and Men.)

R. B. MAINWARING, Colonel,
Acting Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure No. 2.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"A" MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

Nominal Roll of Efficientes for the Year ending 16th April, 1899.

Corps Number.	Rank and Name.	Corps Number.	Rank and Name.
...	Captain Sanders, E. D., A.D.C.,	295	Gunner Howard, W. H.
...	Lieutenant Maitland, F.	298	" Head, R. S.
...	" Fullerton, G. C.	139	" Hooper, J.
	(3 Officers.)	262	" Hursthouse, H.
96	Acting Coy. Sergt.-Major Crombie, H.	294	" Keenan, J.
85	Sergeant Smyth, F.	227	" King, W.
122	" Lammert, G. P.	308	" Mancantelli, R. J.
185	" Skelton, A. H.	297	" May, G. H.
196	Acting Sergeant Underwood, J. H.	314	" Morrell, B. W.
171	Corporal Jupp, J. A.	169	" Potts, R. H.
173	" Nicholson, W.	170	" Plummer, J. A. T.
230	Acting Corporal Northcote, M. S.	218	" Reeves, H.
307	Gunner Alderton, P.	233	" Smith, E. J. Grant
172	" Arthur, H.	234	" Smith, H. Grant
309	" Brown, W. S.	246	" Smith, A. Brooke
274	" Birt, C. E.	228	" Thomson D. D.
237	" Barrett, E. G.	299	" Touzalin, A. R.
244	" Danby, J. D.	296	" Tarrant, J. A.
288	" Duff, J. S.	245	" Watson, Max.
235	" Ellis, A.	281	" Wadehouse, P. P. J.
310	" Forbes, A.	291	" Young, W. R.
303	" Gerrard, R. J.		
289	" Holmes, H. S.		
			(40 Non-Commissioned Officers and Men.)

N.B.—Staff of Corps shown with Field Battery.R. B. MAINWARING, Colonel,
Acting Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure No. 3.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

FIELD BATTERY.

Report on Gun Practice carried out during the Year ending 16th April, 1899.

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.,...	29th Oct., 1898.	71	42	750 to 1,000 Yds.	Practice at an imaginary enemy landing in sampans, from East Shore Stonecutters' Island, during Camp of Instruction.
Do., ...	2nd Jan., 1899.	41	29	1,150 to 1,200 Yds.	Practice at Barrel Targets with flag, floating off Sandy Bay.
Do., ...	10th Feb., 1899.	82	52	1,100 to 1,350 Yds.	Practice on Screens representing an enemy advancing in column, and in extended order at Repulse Bay.

R. B. MAINWARING, Colonel,
Acting Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure No. 4.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"A" MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

Report on Gun Practice carried out during the Year ending 16th April, 1899.

Nature of Practice.	Date on which Practice was carried out.	Number Present on Parade.	Number of Guns.	Number of Rounds fired.	Range.	General Idea of Practice.
0.45" Maxim M.H. Chamber Machine Guns,	17th Sept., 1898.	13	2	567	500 Yds.	To repel a body of men who had under cover advanced to within 500 yards on Police Range, Kowloon.
Do.,	8th Oct., 1898.	16	2	490	500 Yds.	Do.
Do.,	29th Oct., 1898.	26	5	2,980	750 to 1,000 Yds.	Practice at an imaginary enemy landing in sampans from East Shore, Stone-cutters' Island, during Camp of Instruction.
Do.,	2nd Jan., 1899.	19	2	1,260	750 to 1,200 Yds.	Practice at Barrel Targets with flags floating off Sandy Bay.
Do.,	10th Feb., 1899.	33	4	1,530	700 to 1,000 Yds.	Practice at Screens and Head and Shoulder Targets representing enemy advancing in column and in extended order at Repulse Bay.

R. B. MAINWARING, Colonel,
Acting Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure No. 5.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Revolver Practice Return Showing Percentage, for the Year ending 16th April, 1899.

Unit.	Number Firing.	Number of Points obtained.	Percentage.	Remarks.
Staff,	4	157	81.77	
Field Battery,.....	6	238	82.64	
"A" Machine Gun Company,	3	118	81.94	
Total,.....	13	513	82.21	

R. B. MAINWARING, Colonel,
Acting Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure No. 6.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Inspection State, 29th March, 1899.

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	3	89	3	34	134	On Parade { 6-7-pr. R.M.L. Guns, 200 lbs. 4-0.45" Maxim Guns. * This Total does not include— 2 unenrolled Boy Signallers. † Of this number 18 are out of Colony.
Absent { with leave in Colony, .....	...	...	...	2	...	1	3
with leave out of Colony,...	...	...	1	2	...	5	8
on medical certificate, .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
without leave,.....	...	...	...	21	...	13	†34
Total,.....	4	1	4	*114	3	54	180	

To His Excellency the General Officer Commanding,
 (Inspecting Officer).
 D.A.A. General A. and Chief Staff Officer, China.

J. W. CARRINGTON, Major,
 Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.
 (True Copy.)

R. B. MAINWARING, Colonel,
 Acting Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Enclosure No. 7.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

State of Corps, 16th April, 1899.

Distribution.	Staff.					Field Battery.					Machine Gun Companies.					Total.	Remarks.
	Commandant.	Acting Comdt.	Adjutant.	Med. Officers.	Q.-M. Sergeant.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Grunners.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Grunners.		
Present,	1	1	2	1	1	2	5	5	90	1	2	2	1	39	*153	* This Total does not include— 4 unenrolled Boy Signallers, 1 unenrolled Boy Trumpeter Field Battery.
Absent { on leave,	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	2	1	5	13
without leave, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	8	...	...	...	2	3	15
Total,.....	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	6	6	101	1	2	4	4	47	181	
Wanting to complete, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	8	8	73	95
Establishment,.....	1	...	1	2	1	1	3	6	6	64	3	6	12	12	120	238	
Supernumerary,	1	37	38	

DECREASE.

Resigned.—Left Colony,...	1	1	2
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INCREASE.

Joined,	1	1	1	3
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R. B. MAINWARING, Colonel,
 Acting Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.