



Volunteers in Camp

The 2nd V. B. North Staffordshire Regiment of which the Lichfield, Tamworth and Rugeley Companies form part, journeyed to Salisbury Plain on Sunday for their annual encampment. The three trains carrying the battalion arrived at Ludgershall Station at the scheduled time, and no time was lost in marching the men off to camp. There was a church parade the same afternoon, at which the Rec. C. Gilbert, one of the chaplains, officiated, and delivered a most impressive address. Tea was served shortly afterwards, and the men were free for the day.

The camp, which is pitched on the slopes of Windmill Hill, is an ideal one in every respect, the arrangements being perfect in every detail. Near to the camp is Brimstone Bottom, where there is quite a small town built exclusively for the men who are engaged on the large barracks which are being erected at Tidworth, and from the fact that the houses are built entirely of corrugated iron, it is more commonly known as Tin Town. The inhabitants are well catered for, having their own church, school, and recreation room, not to mention a canteen, and the buildings are all equipped with electric light.

Monday morning dawned very wet, and before the first parade a heavy storm had broken over the camp, making work in the open impossible. The time until breakfast was occupied in completely settling down and preparing everything for the week's serious work. After breakfast the company was medically inspected, according to the new requirements as laid down by Mr. Arnold-Forster. The health of the company was returned as excellent, only one or two men having any fault found with them, this in almost every case being due to defective teeth. Shortly after ten the battalion moved out in the direction of Tidworth for battalion and company drill, and a very instructive morning was spent in practicing skirmishing and reinforcement of the firing line. A short time was also devoted to judging distances. After

dinner the men were again taken out in the direction of Ludgershall, when skirmishing tactics were again practiced. Work during the early part of the day was rendered somewhat unpleasant by frequent sharp showers, but the capes saved the men from a serious wetting. Whilst moving out of the morning drill the company passed General Sir Ian Hamilton and his staff, who remained to witness the passing of the whole battalion. On Wednesday the early morning parade was devoted to marching and extending exercises, under company commanders. After breakfast, which was served at about 7.30, the battalion marched out to the valley north-east of Ludgershall where out-post, scouting, and flank-guard duties were entered into by the whole battalion, under Major Ratcliffe. "D" Company formed part of a flank guard, but were not called upon to take any very active part in the proceedings. Camp was reached again shortly after two o'clock, and work was then over for the day, except for the sergeants and orderly corporals, who were detailed for duty.

The battalion will take part to-day (Friday) in a combined field-day, which will include all troops on the plain. The field-day will be witnessed by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Inspector-General of the Forces. The battalion will return home on Sunday.

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