



Typical Troop of WWI National Guard

National Guards Trowbridge Corps

Orders for week ending June 26th, 1915:- The Company will parade on the County Ground as follows: Saturday (19th) and Sunday (20th) at 3pm. : Monday (21st) at 7.30pm., for advance guard instruction; Wednesday (23rd) at 7.30p.m., for field training.

Uniform - The members of Section 1, 2, and 3, having attended during the current week for measurement, the remaining sections will be measured at Mr. G. W. Usher's, Church Street, as follows:- No. 4 Section on Saturday (19th) : No. 5 Section on Tuesday (22nd): No. 5 Section on Tuesday (22nd): No. 6 Section on Thursday (24th), each evening between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. It is notified that those who have given in their names to attend camp are to have priority with regard to provision of uniforms.

Proficiency Firing. - The following sections will fire their course at the miniature range:- No. 2 Section on Tuesday (22nd) No. 3 Section on Thursday (24th), No 4 Section on Friday (25th) at 8 p.m. Men who have already qualified need not attend; but the range will be available on the evenings stated for private practice, after the remaining members of the sections detailed above have fired their course. The following members have qualified in class firing:- Marksman: S. S. Chapman, A. J. Mundy, C. Gibbings, and T. Colborne; 1st class : W. Pullinger, E. R. Toone, and C. Coles; 2nd class: W. Nelson, C. Adams, and E. W. Tomlinson. - (Signed) T. C. Usher, Company Commander.

Interest in the Trowbridge Company of the National Guard is being well maintained, and several recruits have come in this week. But there is room for more and all classes of men will be welcomed to the ranks and will find the work both enjoyable, healthy, and valuable. From the health point of view, many members of the company will testify to the benefit they have received through the few hours of drill they put in weekly. It has done them good physically, and mentally has been a fine contrast and change from the stream of business life in these days.

During the weekend there were good musters on the County Ground. On Monday the parade totaled about eighty, and a very satisfactory platoon drill with rifles was carried out. On the whole the varied movements were done very smartly and were a source of satisfaction both to the officers and the men.

Several sections have fired their efficiency test on the miniature range, and the results show a good average. There has been, of course, a wide variation in the shooting; some have done remarkably well, and some have done poorly. But here, as on the parade ground, a spit of keenness infuses every one, and those who have not reached the necessary standard of proficiency have determined that they will do so.

The Company will shortly be uniformed, and, this accomplished, a notable increase in smartness may be expected. At present the Company is a very fairly efficient one, but the addition of uniforms and equipment will be a fresh spur to endeavour to approach nearer perfection-that snap and go, facility and solidity of movement which are the ideals of military instructor.

As things promise at present, there will be very few absentees from the camp at Bratton during the first week in August. The camp has presented several problems of organization and carrying-on, but committees are tackling them with a good will, and unless the weather is very unpropitious there is not the slightest doubt that a very pleasant week will be spent in training under the healthiest and most enjoyable conditions.

There was a splendid muster at the railway station on Wednesday, when the Trowbridge Company journeyed to Melksham to give a lead in the formation of a company at the rubber town. About ninety Trowbridgians, with their rifles, went by train, and marched to the Town Hall, where the Rev. H. Saunders, president of the Trowbridge Company, was among the speakers. The smart drill of the Trowbridgians was much admired, and so good example was the best recruiting agency for the Melkshamites, who have now enrolled sufficient to start work. A report of the meeting will be found with our Melksham news. Having refreshed the inner man and fortified it for the march home, the Trowbridge Company set out a few minutes past nine o'clock, their departure being witnessed by a large gathering. The march to Trowbridge via Semington, with two short halts, was accomplished in under an hour and a half. Officers and men went along easily, and the Rev. H. Sanders, president and "padre" of the Guard accompanied them. The evening was delightfully cool, and the new moon looked down on a little band of men swinging merrily along and reveling not only in the novelty (to many of them) of the occasion, but in the needful pleasure of a night march.

Mr. Fell, the Unionist member for Yarmouth, asked the Under-Secretary for War, in the Commons, on Wednesday, if he would consider the possibility of uniting the various volunteer training corps and bodies of National and Town Guards, formed for the defence of the country, in one comprehensive force, and to entrust them with the duty of resisting air raids, and supplying them with weapons for that purpose, seeing that these camps exist in almost every town and village, and would be everywhere available.

Mr. Tennant replied that the matter was under consideration.

Wiltshire Times, 19 June 1915