



**Lord Dundonald.**  
Commander of the Canadian Forces.

**The First Militia Act**

Very early in the Island's history as a self-governing colony, while its people were yet few in number the impression grew that it was desirable for better security to form a militia force among its scant inhabitants. For those were warlike times. The echoes of the war of the revolution in the United States were still in the air, and the greater Revolution in France with the Reign of Terror were near at hand although as yet foreseen but by the prophetic few. The Legislature therefore in 1783 passed a militia law that "All male inhabitants between the ages of sixteen and sixty, being British subjects, shall bear arms and be enrolled as militia men." Provision was also made for dividing off the various counties into military districts, the appointment of Commanding Officers, Majors, Captains and Subalterns as well as an Adjutant to each Battalion and a Clerk to each Company, whose duty it was to assist the Captain in the enrolment. For refusing to act or neglect of duty each and every subject was liable to a heavy penalty or imprisonment. This act, with some amendments remained in force for ninety years, or until the union with Canada in 1873 brought the Island under the militia system of the Dominion.

**City Guards, 1854-9**

In 1854 on the declaration of war against Russia the British garrison which for seventy-six years had been quartered in Charlottetown, and then consisting of a Company of the 70th Regiment and a small detachment of Artillery was withdrawn and in the following year St. George's Battery, Fort Edward and the Block House Fort were dismantled. The withdrawal of the garrison caused great dissatisfaction. But a number of young men tendered their service as volunteers, and their offer being approved by the governor 100 stand each of rifles, muskets, swords, bayonets, accoutrements and a supply of ammunition were sent out from England. But it was some time before an organization was effected and the Legislature met in 1855 for the first time without the usual thunder of cannon and military display.

For a brief space the Barracks were again occupied by some thirty pensioners who arrived in May 1855 from Newfoundland, and were employed by the Government. This "Ragged Regiment" as it was called served for a few months and was then disbanded. In 1856 an Infantry Corps of Volunteers was formed under Captain Neil Rankin, Lieutenants John Lea and J. J. Rice, and was designated the City Guards. They wore a uniform of blue with facings of scarlet, while their arms were short rifles and accoutrements black. They formed the guard of honor at the opening of the Legislature in 1857 and in subsequent years down to 1859, in April of which year they were disbanded.

**Artillery Corps, '59**

In 1859 Sir Dominick Daly placed in the hands of the Adjutant General, Colonel Swabey two military commissions, one of which was to be presented to Thomas Morris and the other to James B. Pollard. On the strength of these documents a Volunteer Corps was organized, with headquarters at Charlottetown; which consisted of one Captain, one Subaltern and from thirty to forty gunners. The recruits were drilled three times weekly, and soon became ready for the duties required of them. They received Governor Dundas on his arrival on 7th May with a welcome salute of 15 guns. Later, in July when General Williams, the hero of Kara was making his tour of inspection of colonial fortifications and had reached Charlottetown they thundered a welcome to him from St. George's Battery. At a subsequent inspection the General paid them the compliment of saying, "why men, you stand to your guns like old soldiers."

**The Prince of Wales Rifles, etc 1860.**

When the call for a greater defensive force became general and the great volunteer movement was sweeping over the Mother Country, a thousand stand of Enfield rifles were received from England, and steps were taken to organize a corps of riflemen in each of several sections of the country. In Charlottetown under the leadership of Captain Neil Rankin, Lieutenants John Lea and W. E. Dawson some sixty young men were enrolled, which Corps was subsequently known as the Prince of Wales Rifles.

A company of Rifles was next organized at Southport by Henry Beer, Captain, Francis Stanley and George Stanley, Lieutenants and known as the Dundas Volunteers.

In Summerside Captain J. C. Pope organized an Artillery and Rifle Corps, and in Charlottetown a second Rifle Company was added to the former enrolment under command of Captain John Murphy, Lieutenants Richard Reddin and Owen Winters, under the proud appellation of The Irish Volunteers.

A drill shed was procured in Charlotte

town and the Artillery, Prince of Wales and Irish Volunteers were there instructed in rifle exercise and company movements. Other Volunteer Companies were about the same time formed in leading centres about the Island.

**The General Staff 1860.**

In June 1860 Hon. T. H. Haviland was promoted to the rank of Major of Volunteers, the appointment being the first as field officer to the Corps. It will be of interest to recall the general staff, and the officers of the different arms of the service as they were forty three years ago in 1860:

- Commander in Chief, His Ex. Lieut Governor Dundas.
- Aides-de-camps, Lieut Col. Hon J. H. Gray, Lieut. Col. Hon. William Swabey.
- Adjutant general, Lieut. Col. Peter Stewart.
- Commandant of Cavalry, Lieut Col. Hon George Coles.
- Staff Adjutant, Lieut Col. Peter Macgownann.

**Volunteers.**

- (Major, Hon. T. H. Haviland Commanding)
- Battery A Artillery, Capt. J. B. Pollard, Charlottetown.
- Company B Rifles, Capt. Neil Rankin Charlottetown.
- Company C Rifles, Capt. D Fraser Belfast.
- Company D Rifles, LC Owen, Georgetown.
- Company E Rifles, J Smith, Lt 49.
- Company F Rifles, J Haszard, St Eleanors
- Company G Rifles, H Beer, Southport.
- Company H Rifles, D Farquharson, Long Creek.
- Company I Rifles, N McLeod, Orwell.
- Company J Rifles, D Currie, Wood Islands.
- Company K Rifles, N Mathews n. Springton.
- Company L Rifle, J M Howat, Tryon.
- Company M Rifles, D Macrae, Westley River.
- Company N Rifles, Theo. Ives, Westmorland.
- Company O Rifles, J Murphy, Charlottetown.
- Company P Rifles, JH Duvar, Cascumpec.
- Company Q Rifles, D Rose, Dunstaffnage
- Battery R Artillery J C Pope, Summerside.

**As Active Militia of Canada.**

After fourteen years from the time of the organization of a volunteer force in Prince Edward Island our fortunes were joined with the other Provinces and our militia forces became part and parcel of the Active Militia of the Dominion. The Island was made Military District No. 12. Clothing, arms, accoutrements and officers commissions were received from Ottawa and the regular twelve days' training was carried out at local headquarters.

The District was organized with the following staff.

- Deputy Adjutant General Commanding, Col. Hon. John Hamilton Gray, C. M. G.
  - Adjutant, Capt. Russell G. Freeland.
  - Storekeeper, Major Robert Cropley.
- Following were the commissioned officers of the three Batteries of garrison Artillery, the first two with headquarters at Charlottetown and the third at Georgetown:

- No 1 Charlottetown Battery—James B. Pollard, Captain; George Passmore, 1st Lieutenant; Alexander McDougall, 2nd Lieutenant.
- No 2 Charlottetown Battery—Thomas Morris, Captain; George Loeworth, Doherty, 1st, Lieutenant; James D uglas, Irving, 2nd Lieutenant.

Georgetown Battery—Charles Owen Captain; D. F. Kennedy 1st Lieutenant.

Three Provision Battalions of Infantry, respectively for Charlottetown, and for Kings and Prince Counties were organized with headquarters and officers as below:

- Charlottetown Battalion—Henry Beer, Major; Francis Doherty, Samuel McRae, Francis S. Longworth, Captains; John Henderson, James Kennedy, John MacPhail, Lieutenants.
- King's County Battalion—Allan MacDonald, Major; Donald McLeod, Peter J. Ryan, Malcolm Leslie, Captains; R. W. Sprague, Peter McKinnon, James MacQuaid, Lieutenants.
- Prince County Battalion—John Hunter Duvar, Major; George R. Montgomery, Thomas Ives, Herbert Yeo, Captains; Edward C. Maxfield, Alexander Howatt, William R. Ellis Lieutenants.

Such were the officers of our militia forces thirty years ago when first joined with the Active Militia of Canada. In the meantime the superintendence of our Provincial Rifle Association was assumed by the Dominion. There have been many changes since that day, by death, removal retirement or promotion, and comparatively few of the names above recorded are now in the active list.



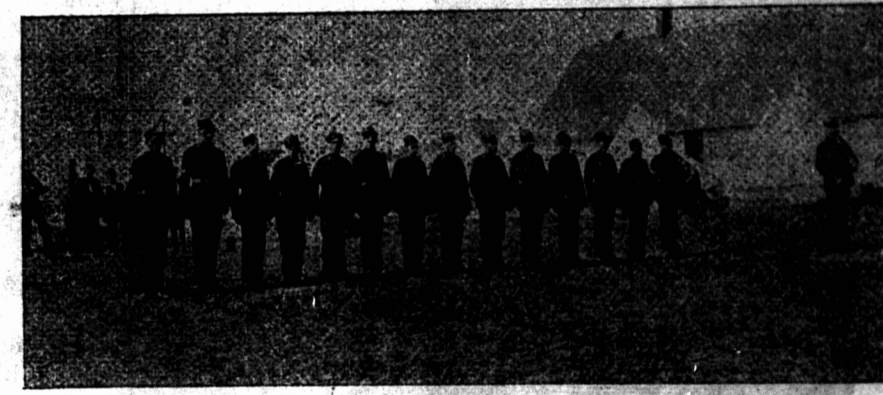
Artillery Camp at Victoria Park. Photo by Louson.



Gun Drill at Fort Edward. Photo by Louson



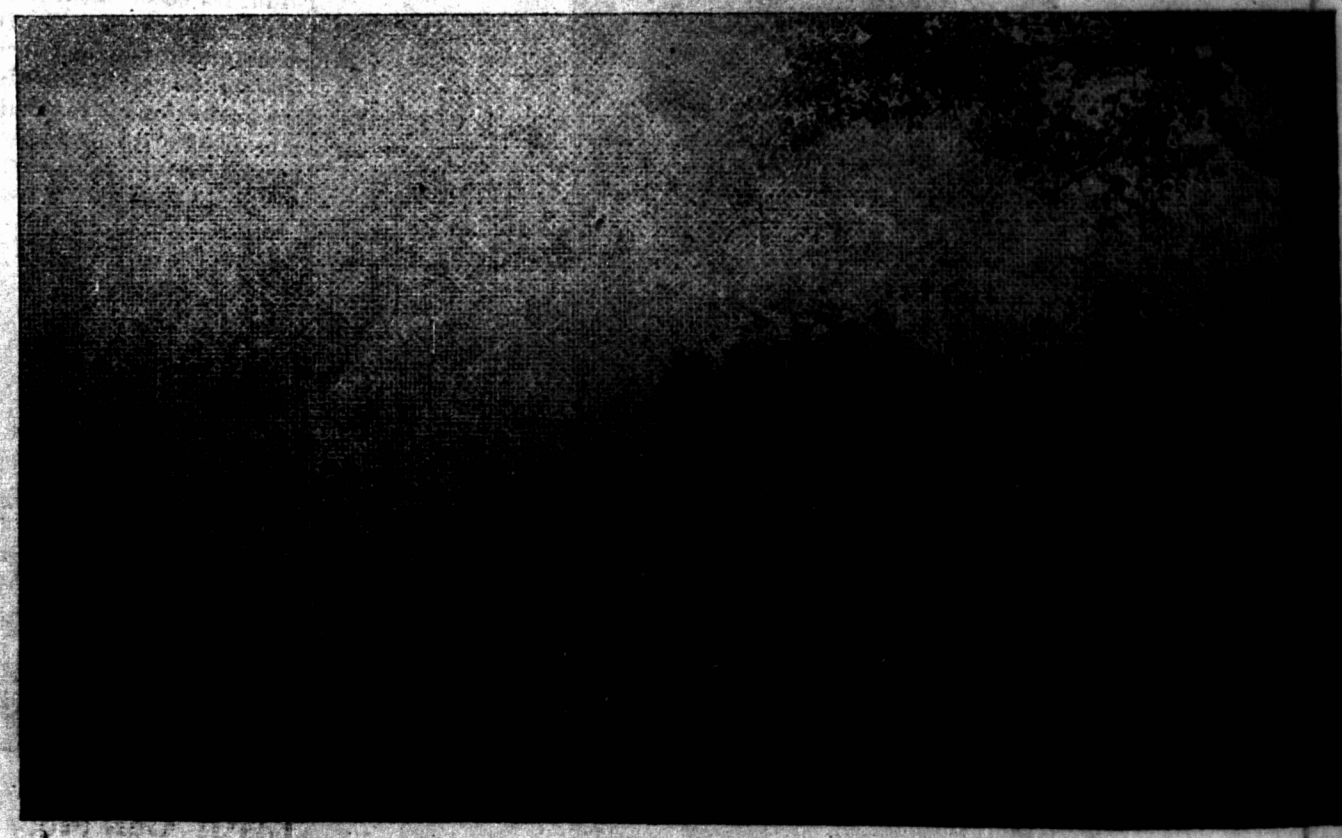
Light Horse Marching Past. Photo by Louson.



"Shun" Camp at Brighton. Photo by Louson.



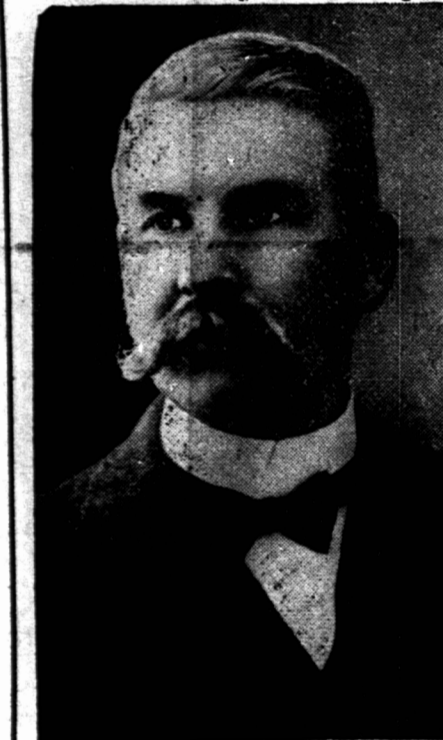
Mounting Guard at Camp Brighton.



No. 5 Co. 82nd Regiment. Photo by Louson.



**A. G. Peake.**  
Captain of No. 2 Co. C. A.



**W. A. O. Morson.**  
Major (Retired) 4th Regt. C. A.



**Rev. T. F. Fullerton.**  
Chaplain 4th Regt. C. A.



**D. L. Hooper.**  
Paymaster of the 82nd Regiment.

**COME AND SEE US.**

A cordial invitation is extended to the Officers, non-Commission Officers and men now attending Camp Brighton, to visit The Guardian offices any afternoon between the hours of one and six o'clock and see their favorite paper being printed.