

No. 103.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Pending the issue of further Standing Orders from the Orderly Office of the Hongkong Volunteer Artillery Corps and the Hongkong Volunteer Rifle Corps in course of enrolment, the following particulars are published for general information.

By Command,

J. M. PRICE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 11th May, 1878.

THE HONGKONG VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY CORPS.

The Hongkong Volunteer Artillery Corps will be organized as an adjunct to the regular forces to be employed at the batteries in course of formation.

Such of the inhabitants of Hongkong as shall offer their services as Artillery Volunteers and be approved of as such by His Excellency the Governor, shall subscribe their names upon the roll of the Corps, and shall, upon being duly notified by the Commanding Officer, take the oaths prescribed in VIII of Ordinance 2 of 1862.

Volunteer will be drilled at least once a day in preliminary infantry drill, squads to be drilled under duly qualified drill instructors from the regular troops.

Drill progressively from squad to squad according to proficiency, and to arrive at the highest possible should be an object of ambition to all.

In preliminary infantry drill, members will be instructed in gun drill, but in the latter unless he shall have passed the first squad.

After completing its preliminary infantry drill will be placed under the tuition of commissioned officers under the supervision of the Officer Commanding Royal Artillery, who may be prepared to receive, and they will be instructed in the drill and manoeuvres in the command.

Drill will take place daily, morning and evening, at the barracks. Officers are to select either the morning or evening hours as the preliminary drill as may suit their convenience.

The uniform of the Corps will be supplied by the Colonial Government, and consists of a fitting smock of dark blue serge with scarlet collar and cuffs, white shoulder buttons, white trowsers in summer, and in winter blue serge trowsers with narrow red stripe. White pith solar helmet and pugree during the summer months, and in winter round blue forage cap with white band. A white waist belt for ammunition pouch when necessary.

The Corps will be armed with Snider rifles and bayonets, and members will be taught the manual and firing exercises by the military drill instructors, as far as may be found practicable without undue interference with their gun drill. The manual and firing rifle drill, though of importance subordinate to the artillery one, will be essential in the event of close quarters.

With the sanction of the Officer Commanding the Troops, the Commandant of the Corps will be a military officer and will be appointed by His Excellency the Governor.

His Excellency will, as far as possible, select the officers of the Corps from a list of names to be chosen by the Volunteers themselves by election.

Non-commissioned officers will be appointed by the Commandant. The drill instructors will, with the concurrence of the Officer Commanding the Forces, be selected from among the most competent regular military non-commissioned officers on the station.

The Corps will be formed into batteries; each battery to be lettered A, B, C, D, etc., according to the number of volunteers, and to have a certain number of officers and non-commissioned officers.

Hours and places of parade will be duly notified to the Corps. An office or orderly-room will be opened at the Government Offices (on the ground floor—opposite the Colonial Treasury), where all the business of the Corps will be transacted and all returns kept connected with its equipment and movements.

The preliminary squad drills will take place on the green formerly the Parade Ground of the old Volunteer Corps, situated opposite the Government Offices. The subsequent artillery drills will take place in Wellington or Murray Batteries as the Military Authorities may decide.

When the Volunteer Companies shall have mastered their gun drills, they will be expected to continue them periodically by way of practice at the different batteries to which the Military Authorities hereafter may direct them.

THE HONGKONG VOLUNTEER RIFLES.

The object in view in the formation of an Infantry Corps in addition to the Volunteer Artillery Corps is to impart to such of the inhabitants of Hongkong as may desire to offer their services for this branch of military duty, and as His Excellency the Governor may approve, the necessary training to enable them to assist in the defence of the Colony in guard and outpost duty.

Volunteers for the Hongkong Rifle Corps, upon being admitted, shall subscribe their names upon the roll of the said Corps, and, on being duly notified by the Commanding Officer, shall take the oaths prescribed in Section VIII of Ordinance 2 of 1862.

Members will be drilled as laid down in the "Field Exercise" and "Rifle Exercises and Musketry Instruction," and they will be expected to attend one parade a day at least, until squad and company drill, as well as manual and firing exercise are mastered.

The description of drill either with or without arms will be regulated according to the proficiency attained, but all must pass through the first squad before proceeding to battalion drill.

Members may elect either morning or evening drill, but whenever practicable they are recommended to attend both.

All squad drills will take place on the green formerly the Parade Ground of the old Volunteer Corps, situated opposite the Government Offices. When the Corps has attained a certain degree of proficiency, it will parade in the general Parade Ground for company and battalion drill.

Drill instructors will be provided from the regular forces, but the non-commissioned officers of the Corps will be expected to master the details of drill so as to assist the regular instructors.

When the Corps is sufficiently advanced, due arrangements will be made for target practice.

The uniform of the Corps will be supplied by the Colonial Government and will consist, during the summer months, of a white smock and white trowsers, and white solar pith helmet, and white waist belt for ammunition pouch. The smock will have shoulder straps with H. K. R. (Hongkong Rifles) worked on in blue. During the winter months the uniform will consist of a scarlet serge smock and blue trowsers, blue facings and white metal buttons, round dark blue forage cap and chin strap. The Corps will be armed with Snider rifles and bayonets.

The Commanding Officer will be appointed by the Governor, and His Excellency will, as far as possible, select the officers from a list of names chosen by the Volunteers themselves by election.

If practicable, and will be formed later on, and each company will have a bugler.

The Rifle Corps will be formed into companies, each company to be lettered A, B, C, D, etc., according to the number of Volunteers, and to have a certain number of officers and non-commissioned officers.

When the Corps is formed, "Standing Orders" will be published from time to time to establish a uniformity of system, and to be observed by all members in his respective position. The result will be felt in the comfort and general efficiency of the Corps, advantages which will more than compensate for any little trouble attached to the performance of their duties.

In the event of war, the Corps will be placed under the orders of the Officer Commanding the Forces, to assist the regular troops in guarding the fortifications, and in all such details of infantry service as emergency may necessitate.

No. 104.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

In accordance with the authority given to him by Her Majesty, His Excellency the Governor is pleased to direct that the Anniversary of the Queen's Birthday be celebrated this year in Hongkong, and its Dependencies, on Monday, the 27th of May.

By Command,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 11th May, 1878.

J. M. PRICE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 105.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

With the concurrence of the Officer Commanding the Troops, His Excellency Governor POPE HENNESSY has appointed Major HENRY SPENCER PALMER, R.E., to be his Aide-de-Camp, subject to the approval of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief.

By Command,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 11th May, 1878.

J. M. PRICE
Acting Colonial Secretary.