

Results of Field Artillery Classification Practice, 1908-9.

The following is an analysis of the results of Field Artillery practice carried out throughout the Dominion during the 1908-9 training season:—

Designation of Battery	A	B	D	E	H
Station	Auckland	Dunedin	Wellington	Christch'ch	Nelson.
Number of guns	4	4	4	4	2
Nature of guns	15-pr. B.L. Mark IV	15-pr. B.L. Mark IV	15-pr. B.L. Mark IV	15-pr. B.L. Mark IV	15-pr. B.L. Mark IV.
Number of series fired for classification	6	6	6	5	4
Number of series fired by indirect laying	6	6	6	5	4
Number of series fired from concealed positions	1	1	1
Mean range	2,150	2,870	3,350	2,745	3,250
Average time taken for—					
Action to 1st gun	2' 29"	1' 33"	1' 34"	2' 47"	3' 50"
Action to 1st "T" shell	4' 48"	3' 27"	3' 16"	5' 27"	7' 20"
Action to effective fire	5' 32"	5' 0"	4' 41"	7' 50"	8' 20"
Action to last gun	10' 5"	9' 47"	11' 9"	17' 2"	17' 40"
Average percentage of effective "T" shell	70	48	46	31	84
Average number of rounds in series	25	25	25	25	25
Number of rounds used for ranging (percussion)	4	4	4	4	4
Marks awarded for ("A") fire discipline and fire tactics, &c.	34	36	36	34	25
Accuracy in ranging	9	9	7	8	8
Percentage of effective "T" shell	8	6	5	3.5	8.5
Percentage of target destroyed	9	7.5	6	6	7
Distribution	8	8	4	6	8
Time occupied	7	8	8	3	2
Percentage of shell in rectangle	9	8	4	5	8
Total marks for ("B") effect	50	46.5	34	31.5	41.5
Total marks for the practice	84	82.5	70	65.5	66.5
Class awarded in ("A")	1st	1st	1st	1st	2nd
Class awarded in ("B")	1st	1st	1st	2nd	1st
Classification for 1908-9	1st	1st	1st	2nd	2nd

NOTE.—In order to classify as a 1st class battery a minimum of 70 marks must be obtained.

"A" Battery, N.Z.F.A.V., Auckland, wins the "Rhodes" Cup for 1908-9.

ENGINEERS.

The Officer for Engineer and Signalling, on arrival from previous training in England, took over the duty of Instructor to Engineering and Signalling Corps. Four N.C.O. Instructors—one for each centre—were put under training, and have since been posted to districts.

The provision of cable-carts carrying some miles of wire and instruments has added much to the usefulness of these corps. The equipment is good, and with the pack-saddles now available good training can be done.

Certain conversions now being made in over a hundred signalling-lamps, before useless, will immensely increase the signalling and communication capacity of the Field Force generally.

The following return shows the efficiency of the various Field Engineers in the Dominion:—

Return showing Efficiency of the New Zealand Field Engineer Volunteers for Year 1908-9.

No. of Company.	N.C.O.s.	Attendance.	Field Engineering Task.	Field Telegraph Task.	Signalling Task.	Discipline.	Marks for Company Efficiency.	Maximum Marks obtainable.	Marks gained.	Percentage.	Remarks.
	100	100	100	100	100	160	100	700	
No. 1 Company	91	85	98	80	84	70	89	700	597	85.30	First-class company. Awarded shield for year 1908-9. Field engineering excellent; signalling very good.
No. 2 Company	89	90	80	70	84	65	79	700	557	79.57	This company would not compete; but the Chief of General Staff ruled that, even if a company does not compete, it must be marked according to its efficiency in the work that is seen.
No. 5 Company	80	82	80	96	81	71	48	700	538	76.85	This company has the most efficient Telegraph Section.
No. 4 Company	80	80	75	86	80	90	45	700	536	76.57	Best-disciplined company.