

FIELD ENGINEERING.

Instruction was also given in the construction of field-works under the supervision of Captain Duigan, Headquarters Staff.

The time devoted to field-works was necessarily limited, but every officer and N.C.O. had a good grounding in the elementary principles of the work, and did his share of the actual digging, &c.

The work carried out was mostly of a practical nature, and consisted of—Construction of a fire-trench; loopholes; overhead cover; concealing trenches; cover lying down; cutting brushwood and clearing the foreground; tracing trenches; types of traverses for protection from enfilade and oblique fire; stone sangars.

The system of detailing working parties was thoroughly explained to all, and the principles of construction, effect of fire, handling tools, and siting trenches explained in a lecture.

I have no hesitation in saying that every officer and N.C.O. who was instructed in the above knows how to instruct his unit in the work carried out.

MOUNTED DUTIES.

All ranks, whether they formerly belonged to the mounted branches or not, were instructed in mounted drill. At first the instruction was given on foot, and the movements were thoroughly learnt in this manner. After this grounding was satisfactorily absorbed, the officers and N.C.O.s were put through the drill on horses. At first the Mounted squads learnt how to ride and handle their horses in the *manège*, as in riding-schools. After this they carried on with troop and squadron drill, with and without arms. Paucity of horses and unsuitable ground prevented mounted work in the field being carried out, but as much training as possible in this direction was done on foot.

Captain Spencer-Smith, Staff Officer to the G.O.C., undertook for a time the supervision of the mounted drill, assisted by Staff Sergeants-major Dovey, Walker, and Redmond.

Thus all ranks, without distinction, were thoroughly instructed in Infantry and Mounted drill, so that each individually could undertake the duties of instructor in either branch, as Adjutants, Area Sergeants-major, or Sergeants-major of units.

MUSKETRY.

In addition to drill and field training all ranks went through as thorough a course of musketry instruction as the time would admit, under the supervision of Major Hughes, Assistant Commandant, assisted by Staff Sergeants-major Rose and Henderson. In this course it was intended to show how the recruit should be instructed, and for this purpose all those under instruction began at the beginning as recruits and were carried right through the course. They were shown the special points to observe in the instruction of recruits, and the method of conducting the standard tests. Great stress was laid on the care of arms—a very important matter, since in this country an alarming number of rifle-barrels are condemned every year through want of proper care on the part of those in possession of arms as Volunteers. Judging distance, also very important, was frequently practised. Great stress was also laid on the importance of fire discipline and control. The extreme usefulness of work on a miniature range was illustrated, and all the various methods of fire and specimens of targets were shown. Methods of testing the firers' errors in aiming, by grouping practices, and the errors in sighting of rifles also formed part of the instruction. As in the drills so in musketry, all ranks were practised in imparting instruction as to recruits, &c.

The whole course was very useful, and was ably carried out under Major Hughes and his assistants.

EXAMINATION.

Periodical examinations in drill, musketry, Commandant's lectures, and Adjutants' and N.C.O.s' duties produced very satisfactory results on the whole, testifying to the efficiency of the instruction given. The seniority of both officers and N.C.O.s in passing out was determined in great measure by the results of these examinations.

SEMAPHORE SIGNALLING.

Semaphore signalling with flags was taught to all ranks, under the supervision of Captain Duigan, Headquarters Staff, and all had to pass an examination in this branch. The training was very thorough, and the majority of officers and N.C.O.s reached a very satisfactory standard of efficiency. Flag drill was not hurried, and the detail was grounded into all.

Many of the officers who were under instruction are proficient in Morse, which will be of great value to them in training the signallers of their units.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Captain R. O. Chesney supervised the instruction in physical training, which was undertaken by Corporal Gallagher, R.N.Z.A. Certain exercises were selected from the Imperial Handbook on the subject, and all officers and N.C.O.s have been given copies of those selected.

LECTURES.

Frequent lectures were delivered by all the members of the Instructional Staff on various military subjects included in the course of instruction. Amongst these were lectures by the Commandant on attack, defence, protection, discipline, scouting, &c. Major Hughes gave a very useful and instructional series of lectures on musketry. Captain Hamilton lectured on drill, duties of Adjutants, &c.; Captain Duigan on field-works. Captain Browne gave instruction in the fitting of saddlery. Captain Reid, N.Z.V.C., on horses and horse-mastership. The latter is very important, and very much required in this country.

Special instruction was also given in the duties of Area Sergeants-major.