

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

REPORT OF THE MALAY STATES GUIDES FOR THE YEAR 1913.

STRENGTH.

RETURN "A."

1. The Regiment has been up to strength throughout the year. Ten men were discharged at their own request, with sanction of the Chief Secretary, and 30 pensioned and invalided.

RECRUITS.

RETURN "B."

2. The class of men offering for enlistment continued good. All recruiting has been done at head-quarters, and through the agency of men returning from furlough, there has been no difficulty in recruiting.

DISCIPLINE.

RETURN "C."

3. The discipline of the Regiment has been very good. There was only one serious case—a bugler in a fit of temporary insanity shot another bugler and then shot himself. The number of offences dealt with by the Commandant was 81 against 144 last year. The powers of punishment by Double Company Commanders for minor offences having been defined, so many minor offences have not had to come before the Commandant. There were two court-martials against nine last year. There were five cases of desertion against 17 last year. The increase of pay sanctioned from 1st January, 1913, has had a beneficial result in this respect as I anticipated. There were only 12 cases of drunkenness against 21 last year.

COMPOSITION OF THE REGIMENT.

4. The composition of the Regiment on 31st December was :

Sikhs	584
Punjabi Muhammadans	102
Pathans	200
Hindus	3 (being reduced)
Malay	1 (an armourer)

The average height was 5 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches (a slight decrease attributable to enlistment of drivers for Mountain Battery).

The average age (official) ... $27\frac{1}{2}$ years

„ service ... $5\frac{7}{12}$ years

The average age is gradually coming down. The pension rules are still somewhat strict and cause the retention of some undesirably ancient men in the ranks, but matters are improving in this respect as younger men are enlisted now than was the case some years ago.

The organization of the Regiment remains the same as last year—viz :

Battery.—One section Sikhs, one section Muhammadans.

Infantry.—One Double Company Manjha Sikhs, one Double Company Malwa Sikhs, one Double Company Punjabi Muhammadans and Pathans, and the Depot Company of recruits to fill vacancies in above.

The Regiment is officered by :

One Commandant

Three Double Company Commanders

„ Double Company Officers

One Adjutant

„ Quarter-Master

„ Medical Officer

MOUNTAIN BATTERY.

One Battery Commander

One Subadar-Major

Six Subadars

„ Jemadars

One Jemadar-Adjutant

MOUNTAIN BATTERY.

One Subadar

„ Jemadar

MOUNTAIN BATTERY.

5. I attach a full report on the Mountain Battery by Captain Spencer, R.A., in command thereof.

The year has been of great importance as regards the Battery. Mules were purchased by Captain Spencer in North China and arrived here in April, and the Battery can now be said to be an efficient mobile unit. The work put in this first year of its reorganization training reflects great credit on Captain Spencer, R.A.

MUSKETRY.

6. Full details are given in the Battalion Annual Return. The results show a considerable improvement on last year. The present rifles issued in 1902 are shortly to be replaced by converted charger loading rifles, and I hope even a further improvement will then take place. All ranks continue to take a keen interest in musketry. The averages of companies will not compare with those of last year as the marking of the rapid practices in classification was reduced (*vide* Musketry Regulations, para 495, note 2).

Number classified	...	...	...	...	722	against	674	last year
Marksmen	...	...	...	...	121	„	80	„
1st class	...	...	...	...	312	„	268	„
2nd „	...	...	...	...	242	„	230	„
3rd „ failed part I	...	...	...	...	11	„	13	„
„ „ „ III	...	...	...	...	14	„	30	„
Partly or not classified	...	...	...	...	22	„	33	„

7. Average of companies in classification:

“A”	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107.3
“B”	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109.6
“C”	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
“D”	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109.6
“E”	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
“F”	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108.6
“Depôt”	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110.5
“Battery”	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	105.5

The Mountain Battery fired the course for Royal Artillery and the Infantry the course for British Infantry.

8. The regimental average was 109.26.

9. Number of recruits exercised 112, average obtained 64 against 64.1 last year.

10. The Musketry Shield for best aggregate average in table “B” was won by “C” Company (Subadar Sham Singh).

11. The Company Challenge Shield was won by “B” Company (Subadar Pall Singh). The competitions for this shield are of a practical nature down the range, including snap-shooting, rapid firing and obstacle course.

12. The Commandant's Shield (presented by Lt.-Col. R. S. F. Walker, C.M.G.) was also won by “B” Company. This competition consists of a 12-mile march (to be carried out in three hours) followed by an attack up the range.

13. Battalion field firing was carried out at Kamunting during the year in conjunction with the Battery practice.

14. New rifles converted for charger loading are on their way.

15. The remarks I made last year about the usefulness of the range becoming curtailed by waterworks in the vicinity unfortunately still apply.

SIGNALLERS.

16. Establishment of 30 paid men complete and efficient. In addition, 35 men possess signalling certificates. Equipment is complete and in good order. Report by signalling officer attached.

FIRE BRIGADE.

17. As heretofore the Regiment has undertaken these duties for Taiping town. Equipment (provided by Perak Government) is in good order. Constant practice parades held throughout the year. A second manual fire engine was obtained during the year. The services of the Brigade was called upon only once during the year—*viz.*, 15th August, when a fire broke out in an atap house at Tupai. The fire was confined to the one building and no further damage done.

MEDICAL.

RETURN "F"

18. I attach the Medical Officer's report in detail. Admissions for malarial fever still show an increase—*e.g.*, 174 in 1911, 289 in 1912 and 348 this year.

SCHOOL.

RETURN "G."

19. Progress continues satisfactory. Twenty-five certificates granted.

ARMOURY.

RETURN "H."

20. Mr. W. Field, Master Armourer, was in charge up to 1st August, when he proceeded on leave pending retirement. Staff Armourer-Sergeant A. F. Hayward taking over charge on 9th November, 1913. The usual work for Civil Departments—*e.g.*, Gaol, Forests, Police, has been carried out, also for the Penang Volunteers and Malay States Volunteer Rifles (Perak Division).

CLOTHING.

21. The Assistant Master Tailor, Mr. M. Gray, has been in charge of this department throughout the year, the appointment of Master Tailor (vacated last year by Mr. Moss) not having been filled pending re-organization of the department, approved with effect from 1914. The department carried out work for Civil Departments—*e.g.*, Police, Forests, Gaol, Posts and Telegraphs, etc., as in former years.

FINANCE.

RETURN "I."

22. Total cost of the Regiment was \$449,093.52 as against \$356,912.19 last year:

"Personal Emoluments" came to	...	...	...	...	\$260,092.12
"Other Charges"	"	...	...	...	189,001.40
				Total	\$449,093.52

A saving on Establishment of \$31,876.48, of which \$8,922 comes under "Personal Emoluments" and \$22,953 under "Other Charges."

OFFICERS.

23. Captain Prince was struck off strength on 8th May, 1913, on completion of agreement.

Captain Minniken, Indian Army, was appointed Double Company Officer from 16th April, 1913.

LEAVE.

24. Captain Cargill reported his return from six months' leave on 9th March, 1913.

Lieutenant Golding granted ten months' leave from 1st May, 1913.

Captain Schomberg granted six months and two days' leave from 21st May, 1913, and reported his return from leave on 23rd November, 1913.

Mr. W. Field, Master Armourer, granted three months' leave from 1st August, 1913, prior to retirement.

Captain Beaumont granted six months' leave from 10th September, 1913.

Lieutenant-Colonel Murray granted three months' leave from 28th October, 1913. Major R. L. Haymes, Second-in-Command, acted for him.

RETIREMENT.

25. Mr. W. Field, Master Armourer, retired from the service from 1st November, 1913, (twenty-seven years' service) and was succeeded by Armourer Staff-Sergeant A. F. Hayward from Army Ordinance Corps, India.

MOBILIZATION.

26. The Mountain Battery and five companies Infantry, under the Commandant, with six British Officers, left Taiping for mobilization and manœuvres at Singapore on 2nd October, 1913, and returned on 15th October, 1913.

GENERAL.

27. Captain Spencer left for North China to purchase mules for the Mountain Battery on 17th January, and returned with the mules on 24th April.

28. The Chief Secretary inspected the regimental lines on 25th January.

29. His Excellency the General Officer Commanding inspected the mules and lines on 10th July.

30. His Excellency the High Commissioner inspected the mules and lines on 16th July.

31. The Mountain Battery under Captain Spencer marched to Kuala Kangsar in connection with G.C.V.O. installation ceremonies of His Highness the Sultan of Perak on 19th September, 1913, stayed there until 26th September, and then left for Singapore maneuvers by route march as far as Tapah Road.

32. "C" Company under Captain Molony also took part in the installation ceremony at Kuala Kangsar.

33. His Highness the Sultan of Perak inspected the mules and lines on 30th September, 1913.

34. His Excellency the General Officer Commanding Troops, Straits Settlements, made his annual inspection of the Regiment on 14th November.

35. The pay of all native ranks was increased with effect from 1st January, 1913, and the institution of different rates of pay has greatly helped towards efficiency and good conduct.

36. The buildings, with the exception of the hospital, are on the whole in good repair. They are overcrowded, but additional accommodation for the Battery is sanctioned next year (1914), which will afford the necessary relief. Lightning conductors are still in course of erection.

E. R. B. MURRAY, LT.-COL.,
Commandant, M.S.G.