

Early military history and units of Manawatu and Palmerston North 1868- 1914



LTCOL Peter Wood
New Zealand Wars Study Centre
New Zealand Defence College, Trentham Military Camp

6 MMR enters the Square from Coleman Place

Manawatu Military Contribution



Lady Bowen

1868

Manawatu Militia (Dec 1868- Mar 1870)

Manawatu Cavalry Volunteers / Lady Bowen's Light Horse (1869- 1875) [Foxton]

Militia

Palmerston North Rifles Volunteers (1879- 1910)

Palmerston North Guards Volunteers (1900- 1910)

Manawatu Mounted Rifles – Volunteers (1891)

Volunteers

Year	Pop.
1887	2,601
1901	6,450
1911	10,991

Boer War 1899- 1902

C Company (Rifles) and G Company (Guards) of 2nd Wellington Battalion (West Coast) Rifle Volunteers

A Squadron, 3 Battalion, Wellington (Manawatu) Mounted Rifles

1910

7th Wellington Battalion (West Coast) Regiment 1911- 1948

6th (Manawatu) Mounted Rifles Regiment

Territorials + compulsory service

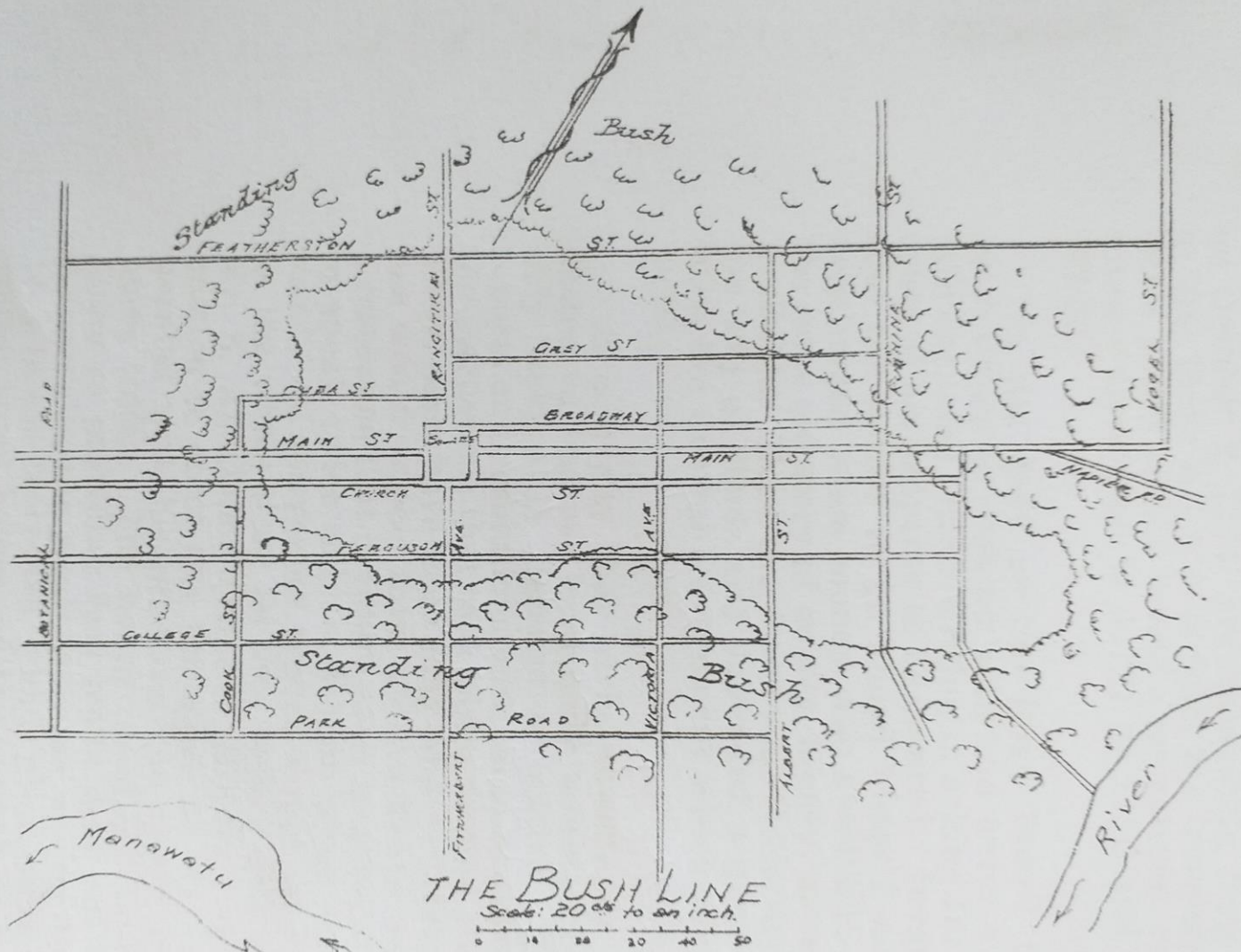
1914

7th Wellington (West Coast) Company, Wellington Regiment

6th Squadron, Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment

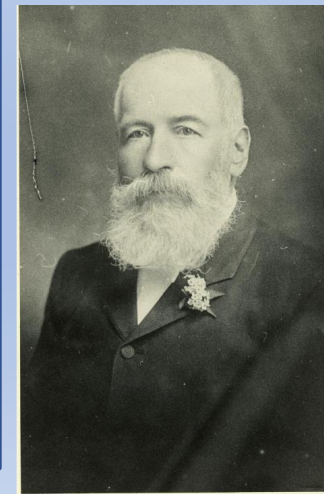
WW1

Early Palmerston North



The Papaioea clearing surrounded by heavy bush.

“... there was never any friction with the locals in the Manawatu, but other parts of the colony were still being kept in a state of ferment and fever and, consequently it was deemed prudent upon all males over eighteen years of age to serve in the militia... but in a district where everything was peaceful, this compulsory service was looked upon as a hardship...” (Old Manawatu)



George Snelson

18 October 1878.
Major Moke

Formation of the Palmerston North Rifles (Volunteers): Mayor George Snelson, 18 October 1878

1. J. Boland	34. J. MacArthur
2. A. K. Hampton	35. J. A. Keeling
3. J. M. G. G. G.	36. Alfred Williams
4. J. M. G. G. G.	37. W. L. H. H.

Wellington, 2nd January 1879

His Excellency the Governor is respectfully advised to

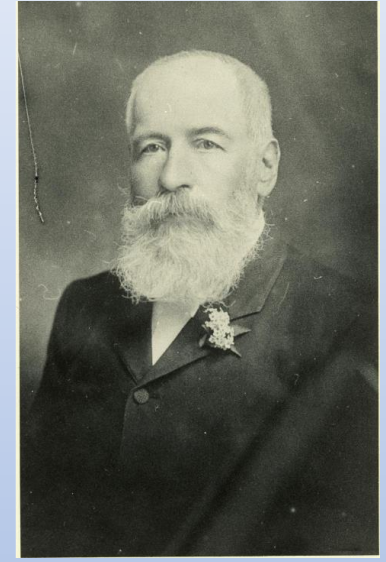
accept the services of the

Palmerston North Rifle Volunteers

J. F. Williams

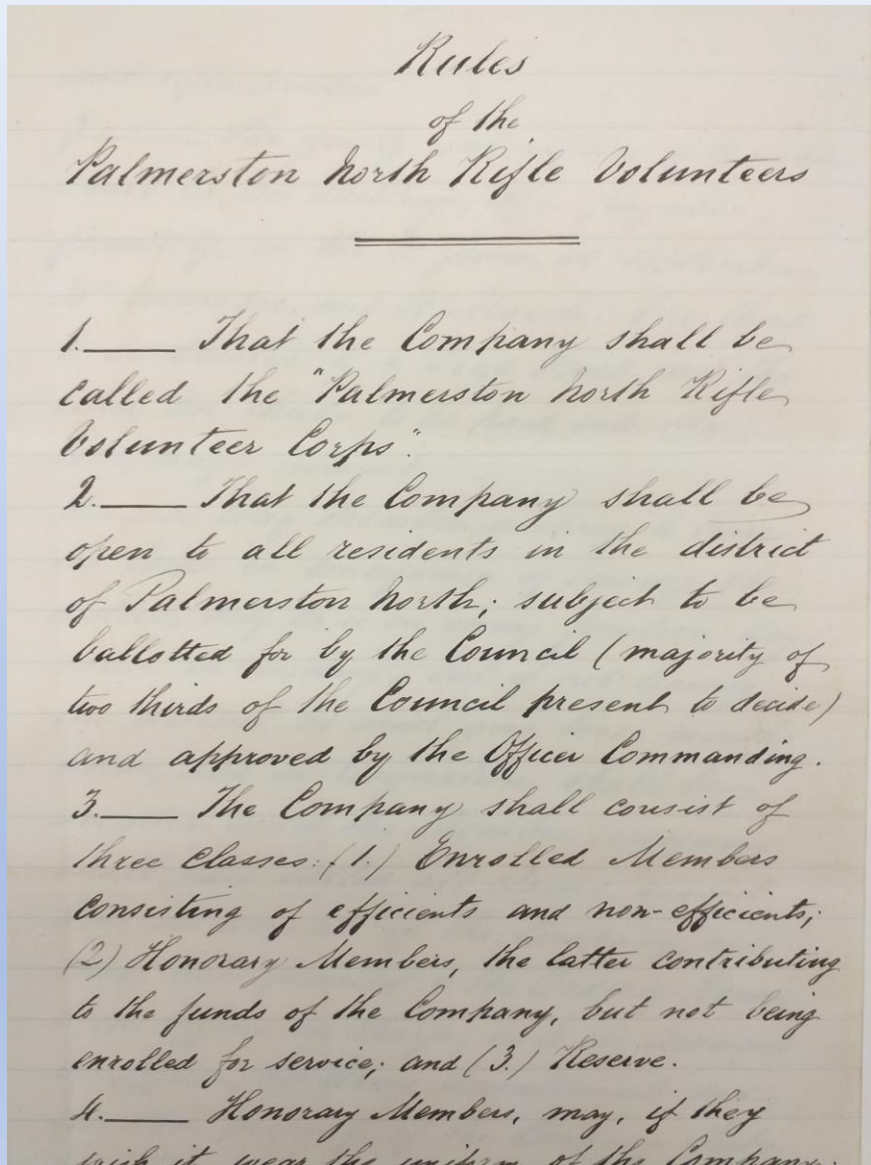
Approved

no 7 16 79



"Sir, We the residents in the above town whose names are appended herewith, beg most respectfully to offer our service as a Volunteer Rifle Company to be called the Palmerston North Rifles, and from the fact that no corps of any branch of the service exists within 30 miles so we are encouraged to believe our service will be accepted..."

Rules for the Palmerston North Rifles



- Called Palmerston North Rifles Volunteer Corps
- Open to all residents of the district of Palmerston North, subject to [successful] ballot by the council
- Membership: Enrolled Member, Honorary Member or Reserve
- Honorary Members may wear the uniform, but must pay a donation of £3.3.0 (life membership)
- OC to fix place of parade for drills and rifle practice
- Yearly subs for all members 10 schillings
- Fines:
 - Talking in the ranks: £0.1.0
 - Absence from parade: £0.3.0/ 0.2.0/ 0.1.0
 - Wearing uniform when not on duty: £0.2.6
- Expelled if miss three successive drill parades
- Officers elected by ballot at Corps AGM

Proposal to create a Scandinavian Settler's Corps in 1881

NEW ZEALAND.
DEFENCE.

Received 31. 10. 81.

From *H. Graff*
Palmerston North

Subject
*Proposal of Scandinavian Settlers
to form a Volunteer Corps.*

MEMORANDA.

166

Palmerston North
29th October 1881.

Sir

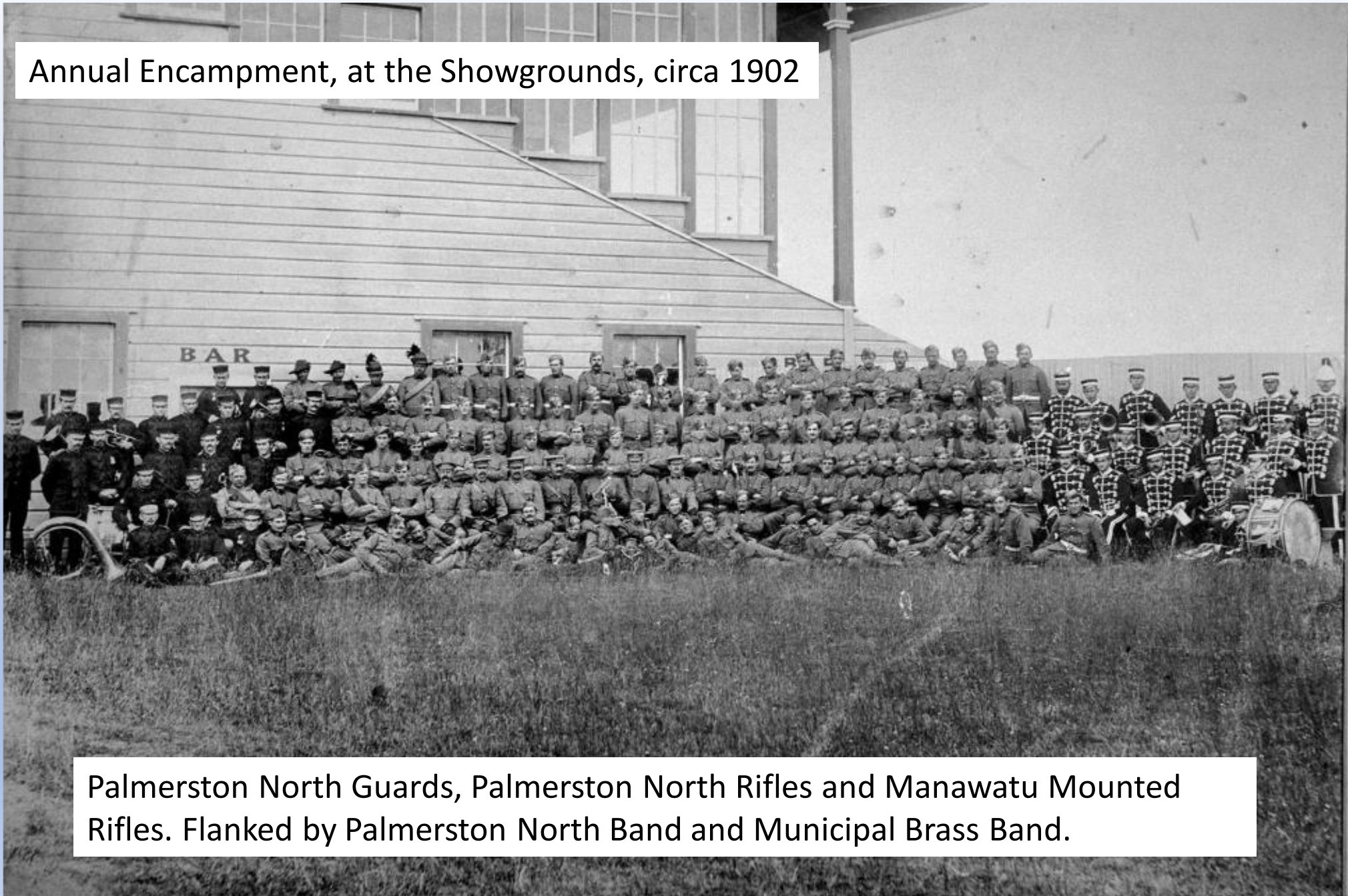
I have been asked by a large number of Scandinavian Settlers to inquire if the Department would kindly grant us the favour of forming a corps of their own. They are mostly all old drilled soldiers and very anxious to be of some use if urgent circumstances should require it. We have several officers among us and I believe we could muster c. 40 men and officers which would require only a few weeks drill to make them almost perfect. We all know the use of the rifle and are generally good shots. Of course we would place ourselves under the inspection and superintendence of the officer commanding the District. We only ask for the usual concession granted to other volunteers and permission to form a corps of our own countrymen with our own officers from the captain and downwards. I beg to apologise Sir, for sending this communication direct to the head-quarters.

I beg to remain, Sir,
Your obedient Servant
H. Graff.

"I have been asked by a large number of Scandinavian settlers to inquire if the Department would kindly grant us the favour of forming a corps of their own. They are mostly old drilled soldiers We have several officers among us and I believe we could muster 40 men... we all know the use of a rifle and are generally good shots..."

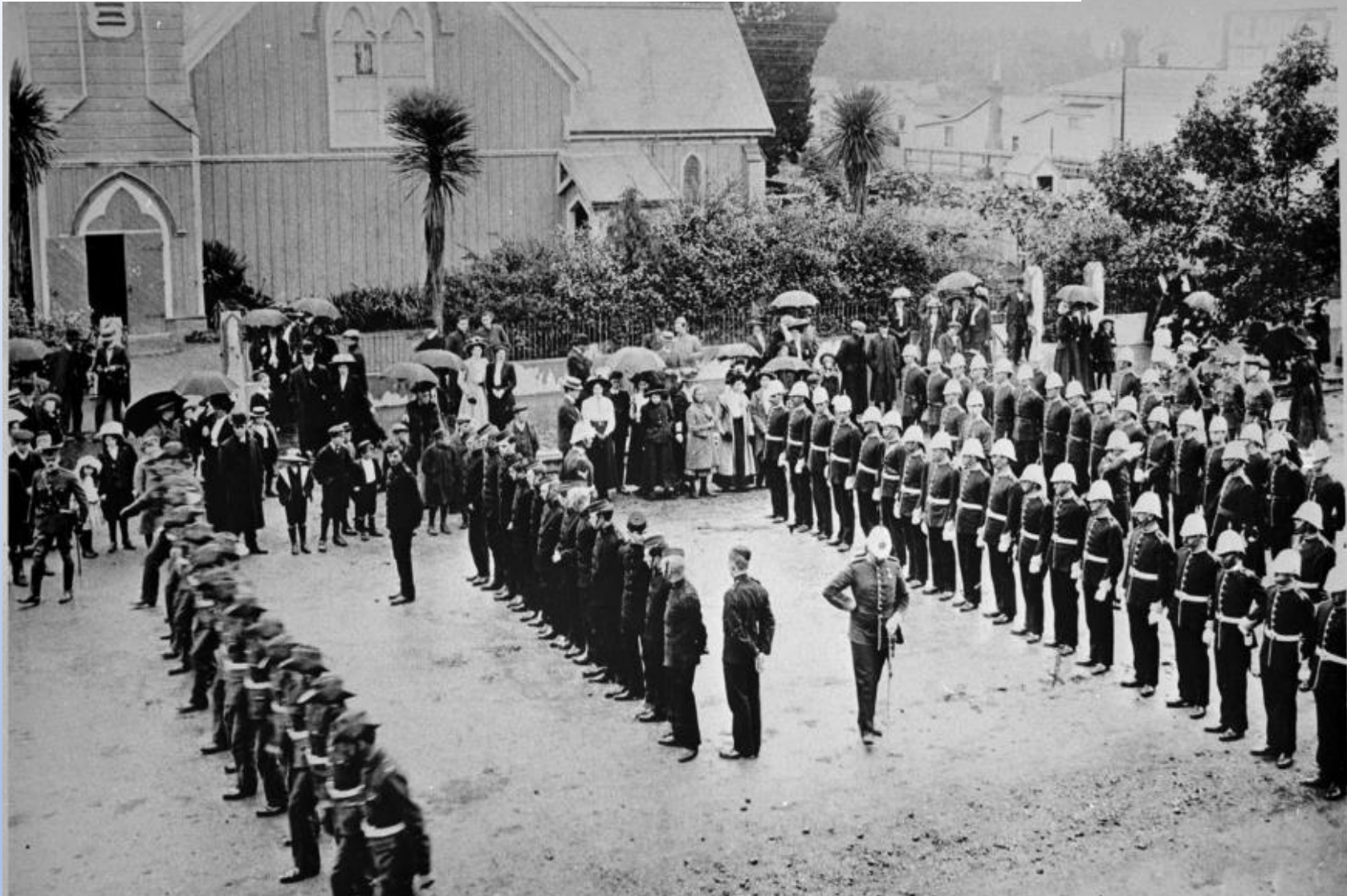
Signed H. Graff, 29th October 1881

Annual Encampment, at the Showgrounds, circa 1902



Palmerston North Guards, Palmerston North Rifles and Manawatu Mounted Rifles. Flanked by Palmerston North Band and Municipal Brass Band.

Parade outside All Saints Church, Church Street, circa 1909



Front rank Manawatu Mounted Rifles under Captain Peach. Second rank is **Cadet Corps**. Third rank Palmerston North Rifles under Captain Mounsey. Fourth rank Palmerston North Guards under Captain MacMurray.

Palmerston North Rifles circa 1912



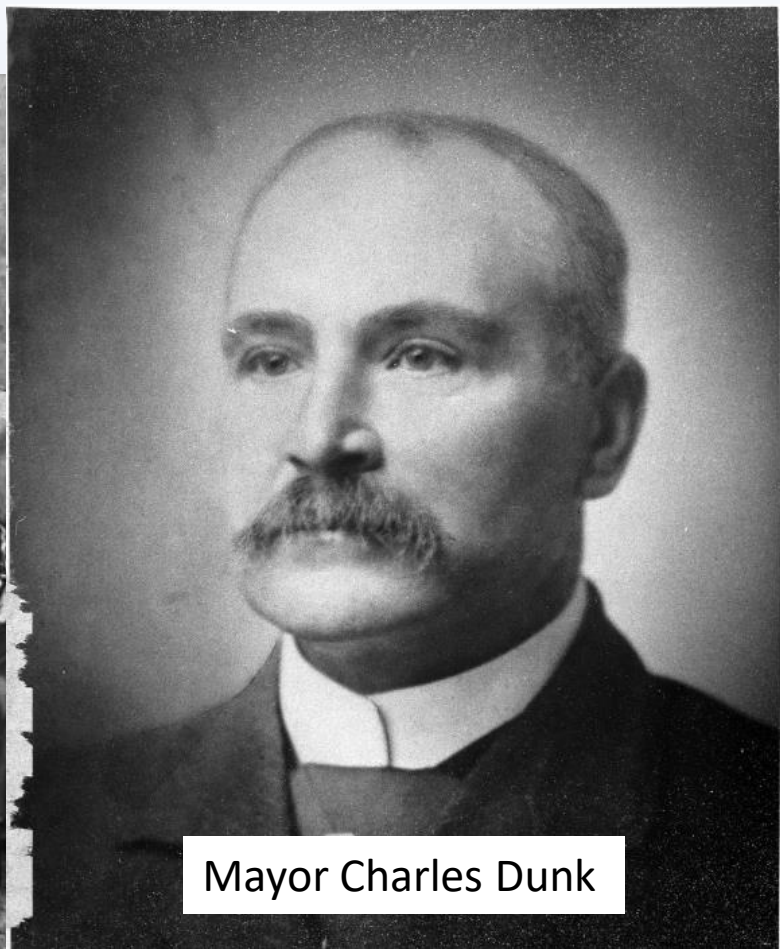
Palmerston North Guards, at a tournament held at Whanganui Racecourse in 1904



Back row (L to R): Drew; Torstonson; Hunt; W J Mountjoy; Horn; Wilson.
Front Row (L to R): Gascoyne; W Fitt; Stagpoole; Boon; McCall.



Members of the Manawatu Mounted Rifles- at Hokowhitu, circa 1900



Mayor Charles Dunk

RECORD OF SERVICES OF OFFICERS, 6th MOUNTED RIFLES

Name	Date of Birth	Occupation	Date of first commission and rank.	Particulars of Service	Present Rank	Medals and Decorations
Lieut-Col.D.Pringle	12-9-1857	Saddler	June 15th.1891 Lieutenant	6 years Hutt Valley Cadets 1868-1874. Hutt 1874-75. Manawatu Mounted Rifles, June 1891 to present date.	Lieut-Col. #1.6. 1910	Diamond Jubilee. 12 year's Service 16 year's Service 26 year's Service Terr.Off. Decoration.
Major W.Meldrum	28-7-1865	Solicitor	Nov.10th 1900 Lieutenant	Hunterville Mounted Rifles, Nov.1900 to present date.	Major 16. March 1910	12 yrs Medal 16 yrs do.
Capt.S.Jickell	18-5-1856	Civil Engineer.	March 8th 1894 Captain	11 years 1st Durham Light Infantry Volunteers,ret- urned efficient 1873-83. Rank of Sergt.Discharged on leaving for N.Z. 1 year Victoria Rifles, Auckland,1885,Private. 6 months Auckland Engineers, 1890,rank Acting-Lieut. 2 years Nelson City Rifles, 1894-96,rank Captain. Manawatu Mounted Rifles, 4 years to date,rank Q.M.	Captain- Quarter- master 14. Sept 1909	M.O.form,illuminated discharge,1st Durham Light Infantry Volun- teers.
Capt.H.Palmer	19-7-1861	Auctioneer	July 28th 1906 Lieutenant	Manawatu Mounted Rifles, 23-3-1900 to present date.	Captain 14. Sept. 1909	12 years Service Medal G.O. of Brunswick
Major A.M.Samuel					Major. Oct 16. 1912	12 yrs Medal
Major W.G.Ashworth	23-7-1864	Farmer	June 11th 1903 Lieutenant	Rangitikei Royal Rifles, 7 years 8 months. Hunterville Mounted Rifles, Nov.1900 to present date.	Major 16 Oct. 1912	12 yrs Medal 16 yrs do 26 yrs do
Major W.F.Levin	12-12-1879	Farmer	Feb.22nd 1909 Lieutenant	2 years 1st King's Dragoon Guards 1 1/2 years 4th East Surrey Regiment.	Major 16. May 1911	Killed in Action
Capt.P.de B.Brandon	28-3-1876	Ass.Super- visor,Leg- islative Department.	Feb 13th 1907 Lieutenant	Heretaunga Mounted Rifles, Pvt 3-8-OI,Sergt 1905, Q-M-Sergt 1906,Lieut 1907. Alexandra Mounted Rifles, Lieut-Adjt 1908,Capt-Adjt 1909. South Africa 1902.	Captain 1. Sept 1909	Queens S.A.Medal, 3 Clasps.

Capt. G.D. Hamilton	I-I-1883	Civil Servant	May 5th 1910 2nd Lieut.	5 years S.A. Constabulary, 1902-1907. Employed on Headquarters Staff for 4 years.	Captain	
						Oct. 16. 1912
Lieut. W.G.C. Smith	6-4-1873	Flaxmiller	Sept. 1st 1909 Lieutenant	Manawatu Mounted Rifles, Aug. 1899 to present date.	Lieutenant	12 years Service Medal 16 yrs do.
					Sept 12 1909	
Lieut. H.P. Taylor	18-12-1877	Farmer	Nov. 11th 1910 Lieutenant	Feilding Mounted Rifles, May 1900 to present date.	Lieutenant	Killed in Action
					Sept 7. 1910	
Lieut. J.B. Davis	10-2-1885	Clerk	Sept. 7th 1910 Lieutenant	South Africa 1900 Kelburne Rifles & Here- taunga Mounted Rifles from May 7th 1901 to present date	Lieutenant	S.A. (Queen's) Medal 12 yrs Medal 16 yrs do
					Sept 7. 1910	
Lieut. J.A. Somerville	23/1/1882	Farmer	June 3rd 1908 Lieutenant	Alexandra Mounted Rifles, Sept. 9th 1898 to 1911 6th Mounted Rifles, 1911 to present date. South Africa, 8th Contg.	Lieutenant	Queens S.A. Medal 3 Clasps. 12 yrs Medal
					June 3 rd 1908	
^{Capt.} Lieut. D.W.S. Morrison	22/5/1883	Farmer	22nd April 1911 2nd Lieut.	Rangitikei Royal Rifles, July 1899 to 1904 Hunterville Mounted Rifles, 1904 to present date.	Lieutenant	12 yrs Medal 16 yrs do
					Nov 9 th 1912	
Lieut. M.A. Harding	26-4-1890	Farmer	April 1st 1912 2nd Lieut.	Wanganui Collegiate Sch- ool Cadets, 4 years. 6th Mounted Rifles, June 1911 to present date.	Lieutenant	Killed in action
					April. 16. 1913	
Lieut. G.D. Mayo	15-11-1881	Farmer	Oct. 26th XXXXXX 1912	Feilding Mounted Rifles, 2 nd from 1-3-09 to pres. date	Lieutenant	Killed in action
					Oct 28. 1912	
Lieut. D.G. Moore	22-5-1891	Farmer	April 1st 1912	6th Mounted Rifles, 2 years. 2 nd	Lieutenant	April 1 st 1912
2nd Lieut. O. Watt	-1880	Farmer	Dec. 16th 1912	Hunterville Mounted Rifles, from 10-11-1900 to present date. South Africa, 190 .	2nd Lieut.	Queens S.A. Medal 12 yrs Medal Killed in action
					Dec 16. 1912	
2nd Lieut. S.W. Rapley		Solicitor	April 1st 1912		2nd Lieut.	



To-morrow a church parade will be held at All Saints' Church, when the Mounted Rifles and the two local infantry corps will attend. The Palmerston Brass Band will play at the head of the procession.

The drill shed is altogether inadequate for the requirements of the volunteers. An effort should be made to secure a more suitable building.

VOLUNTEER NOTES.

Last evening the members of the Palmerston North Rifles and Palmerston Guards paraded at the Drill Hall, to enable Lieuts. Jack, Louisson and Beale to undergo the practical part of their examination.

The Guards fell in first, having a splendid muster, the number on parade being 52.

The Palmerston North Rifles were not quite so large in numbers, but considering that Friday is not their regular night, and they only had a short notice the parade, was very creditable to Capt. Mounsey.

Before the Guards were dismissed Lieut.-Colonel Newall, who was the examiner, expressed his pleasure at the manner in which the drill was performed. He stated he was pleased to meet the new company and hoped it would not be the last time he would see them.

The Palmerston Rifles were also complimented by Lieut.-Colonel Newall on their successful evolutions.

The examination was a very severe one and the members of both corps did all in their power to assist the officers

The Military School opened on Monday night under Captain Browne, and will continue until the 12th inst. The officers under instruction are :—Captain Pringle, Battalion Staff; Captain Peach, Manawatu Rifles; Captain McMurray, Palmerston Guards; Lieut. Louisson, Palmerston Rifles; Lieut. Palmer, Manawatu Mounted Rifles; Lieut. Allen, Palmerston Guards; Hon. Lieut. Gabites, High School Cadets; Quarter-Master Sergt. Bignall, Manawatu Mounted Rifles; Sergt. Halpin and Sergt. Stock, Palmertson Rifles; Sergt. Fitt, Palmerston Guards; Corporal Kells, Corporal Bell and Corporal Pratt, Palmerston Rifles.

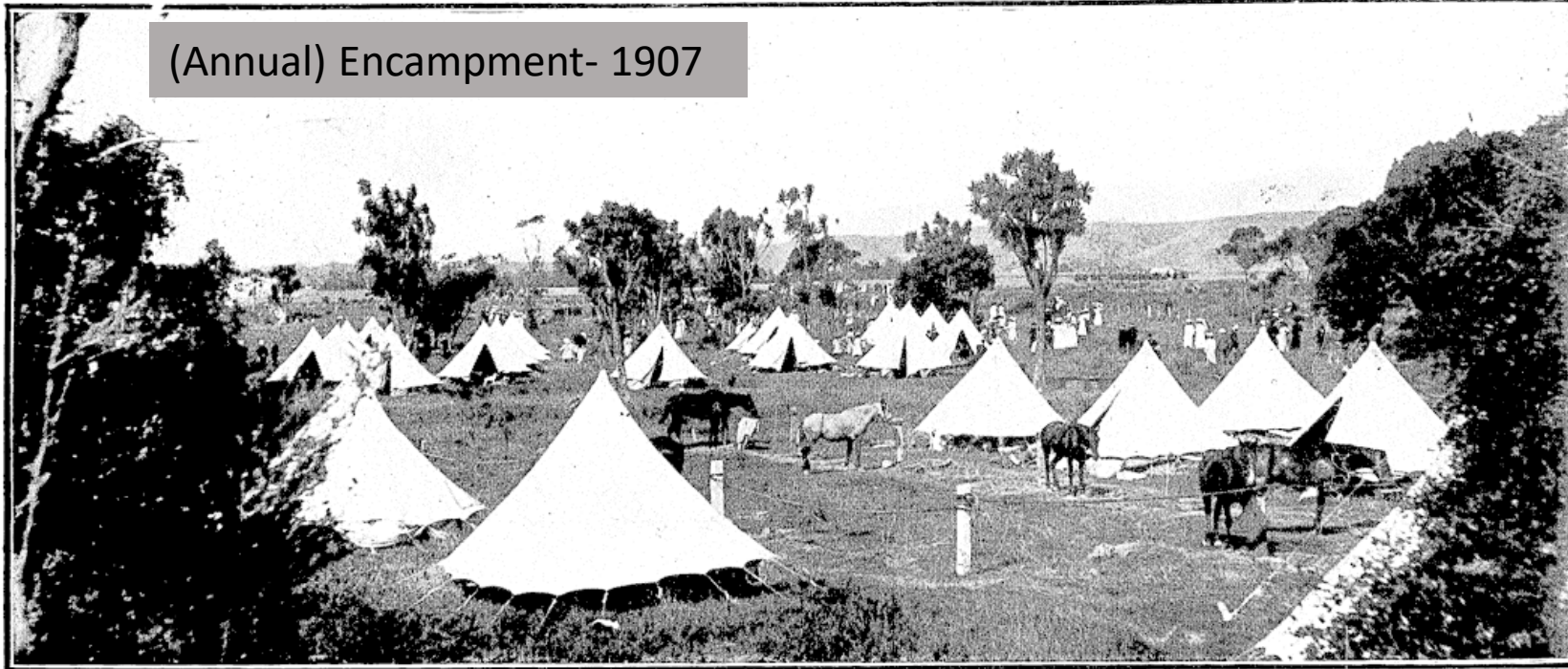
The subjects last night were semaphore signalling, advanced flank and rear-guard, solution of tactical problems. The programme for the remainder of the week is as follows:—Wednesday, 3 p.m.—Parade at rifle range, attack practice, field engineering; 8 p.m.—Use of aim corrector, triangle of error. Thursday, 8 p.m.—Outpost duties, semaphore signalling, saluting with swords. Friday, 8 p.m.—Topography, map reading, saluting with swords. Saturday, 3 p.m.—Field sketching and use of instruments.



Palmerston North Rifle
Volunteers Funeral Procession
circa 1900

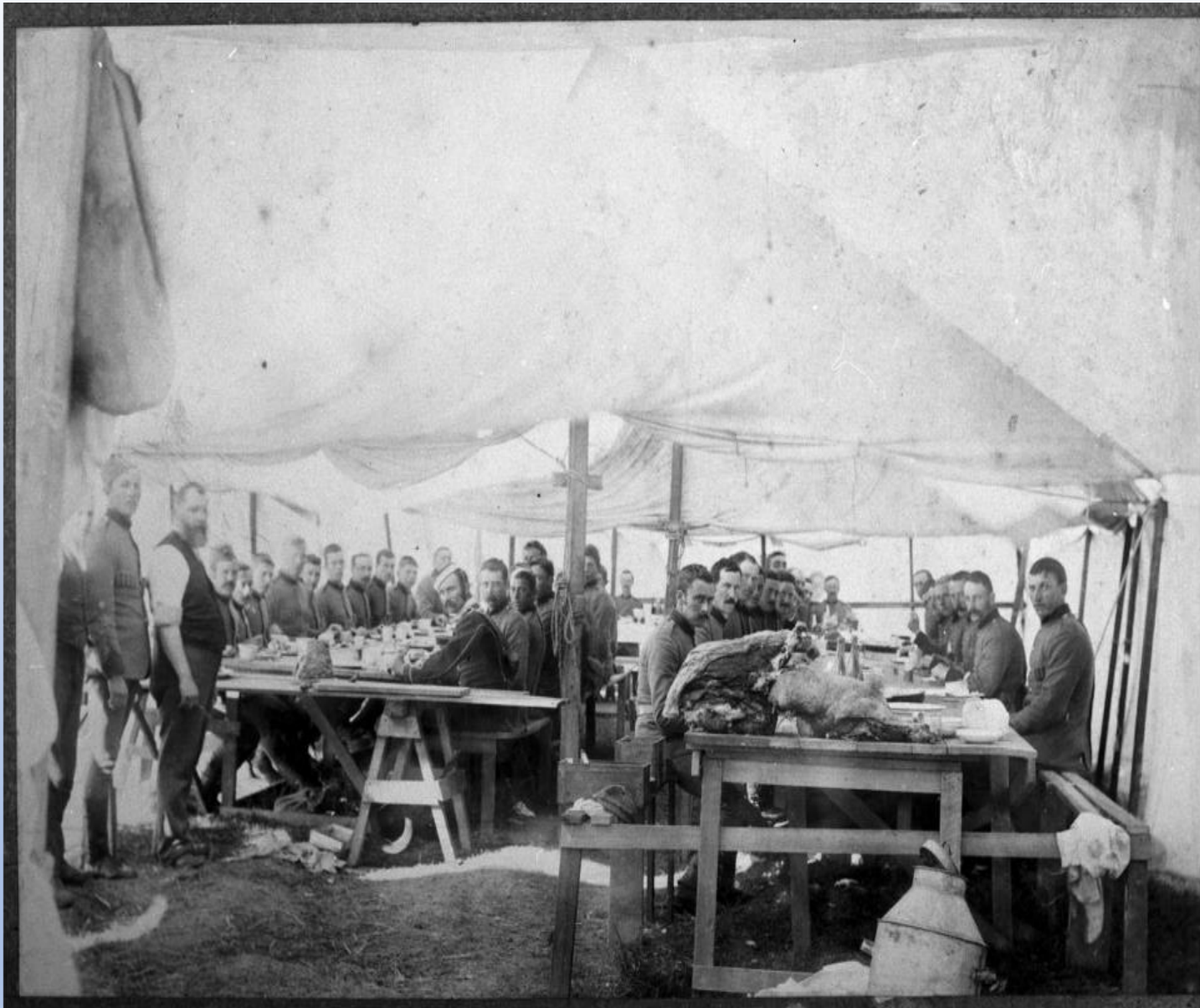
This Drill Hall stood in Main Street East, between Princess and Victoria Avenue. This photograph shows a funeral procession about to proceed from the Drill Hall to the Terrace End Cemetery

(Annual) Encampment- 1907



TWO VIEWS OF THE RECENT ENCAMPMENT AND DRILL OF THE PALMERSTON NORTH RIFLES. PALMERSTON NORTH GUARDS, MANAWATU MOUNTED RIFLES, AND FIELDING MOUNTED RIFLES AT PALMERSTON NORTH.

Fountaine, Photo.

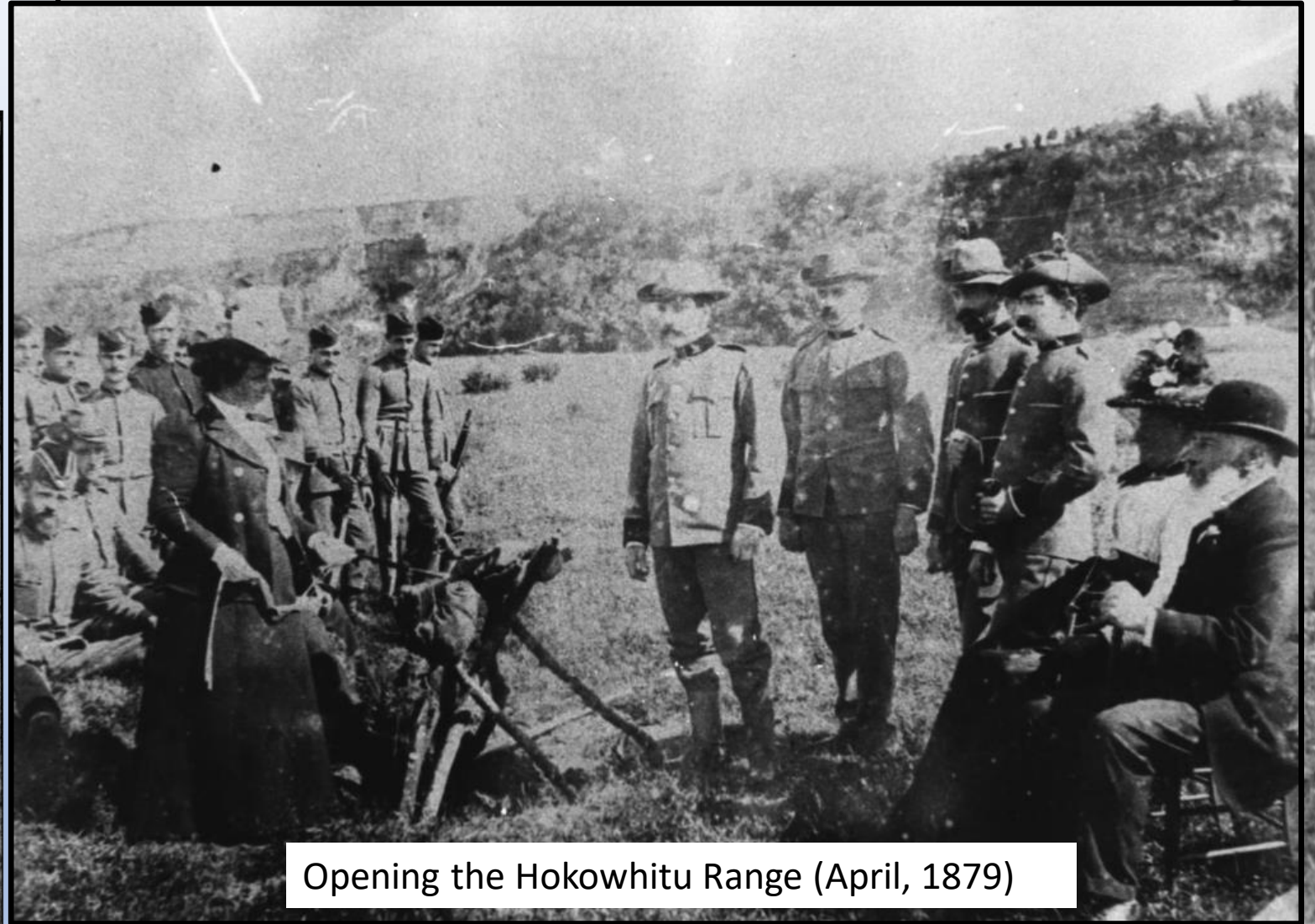


Members of the Manawatu Mounted Rifles in a Mess tent during encampment circa 1900



Parade of Volunteer Forces, Waldegrave Paddock, Easter encampment circa 1891- between what is now Waldegrave and Bourke Street. Units from all over New Zealand participated.

Shooting at Hokowhitu Range



Opening the Hokowhitu Range (April, 1879)

Hokowhitu Range

61087

DEFENCE.

Received: 20.1.97

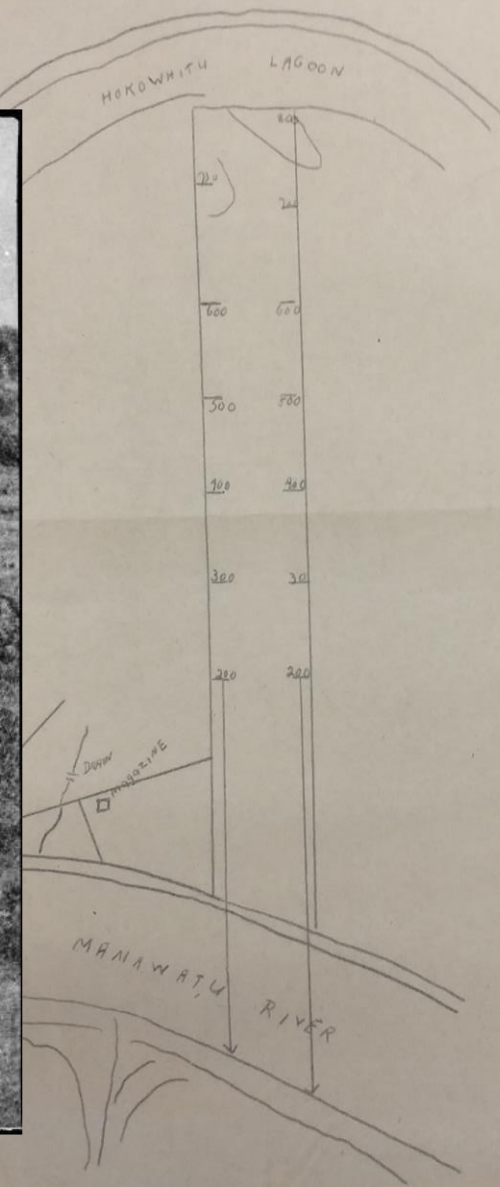
From: O.C.

Subject: Report that Capt Dunk Marawatu M.C. was shot through the fleshy part of his leg, above the knee, while in the Markers Butts attending the Volley Firing of the Corps.

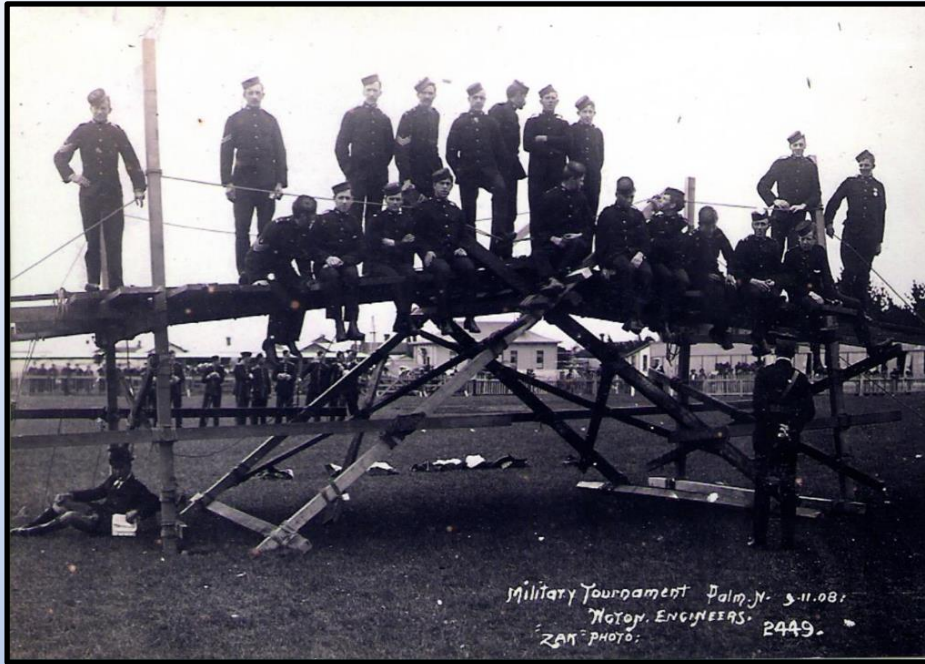
MEMORANDA.

The Honble the Minister for Defence

It is a matter for great regret that this accident should have happened. The Regulations for Musketry Instruction clearly lay down that no person is to be allowed in the markers butts whilst volley firing is being carried out. - Captain Dunk must have been aware of this order and have known the risk he was running by remaining in the butts. Captain Coleman as Officer Commanding the parade is very much to blame in not insisting on the regulations being carried out. He should have ordered Capt. Dunk to leave the



Military Tournaments



The Wellington
Military Engineers at
a military tournament
in the PN
Showgrounds, 9
November 1908.



Palmerston North
Rifle volunteers drill at
the 1909 King's
Military Tournament,
held at the A & P
showground,
Palmerston North

THE **MILITARY** TOURNAMENT

Arrangements are going ahead apace for the Grand **Military** Tournament and Assault at Arms which is to take place on Monday next (King's Birthday). Lieut. H. Palmer, the energetic secretary, has everything well in hand, and judging from the number of corps competing and the splendid programme which has been arranged, given fine weather the affair must prove a great success. The programme of events commences at 11 a.m. with a spectacular figure march by cadets, and from that time on exciting events follow each other in rapid

success
item
very
Lan
Arti
Mus
T
com
500

KING'S BIRTHDAY.

The **Military** Tournament.

A Brilliant Success

10,000 People Present

EVERYONE DELIGHTED

When rain deluged the Manawatu throughout Sunday night and on to Monday morning the promoters of the Grand **Military** Tournament who have worked like galley slaves for

Boer War Service



Frederick (sitting) and (possibly his brother Isaac) Kennedy standing

South African War 1899- 1902: TPR Anderson W.

1904/2523 Did. Antwerp Pretoria. 2/6/1900. 28

NEW ZEALAND.

THIRD CONTINGENT FOR SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA.
(ROUGH-RIDERS).

ATTESTATION-FORM FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Regimental No. 720 Company: 2

Horse: _____ Carbine: _____

Name in full: Hollands Anderson

Corps or district from which drafted: Manchester Rifles - Fielding

Rank and length of service: 3 years

Address: Palmerton N.

Trade or calling: Fanner

Name and address of employer: Croft Pleasant Fielding

Age: 21 years 2 months Height: _____ feet _____ inches.

Chest-measurement: _____ inches. Weight: _____ st. _____ lb.

Religion: Ch of England

Next-of-kin (name in full): Armi Anderson

Address: Palmerton N.



THE LATE TROOPER W. ANDERSON

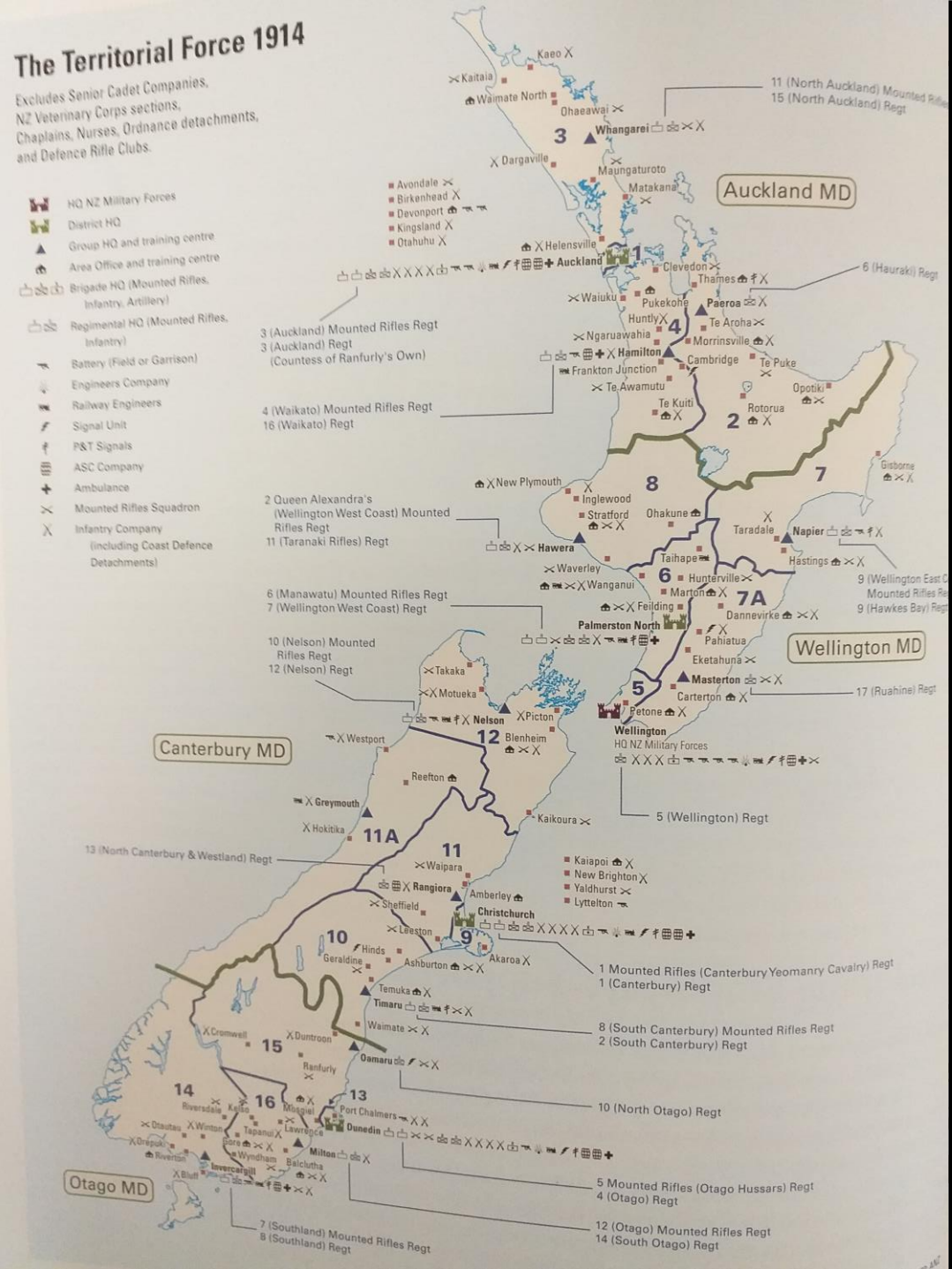
Anderson was enrolled in MMR in 1900

Transition to a Territorial

- Volunteer Force deemed unable to meet New Zealand's defence requirements
- Defence Act 1909
 - Territorials
 - Compulsory Military Training
- Territorials established 1911
 - 30,000 strong force envisaged
 - Created out of the "heterogeneous mass of scattered squadrons, batteries and companies existing in the Volunteer Corps."
- Officers drawn from ranks and pass prescribed examinations
- CMT registration began in 1911
- By April 1914, Territorials numbered 25,684, of whom 73% had attended camp that year
- Not obliged to serve overseas; basis for an expansion force

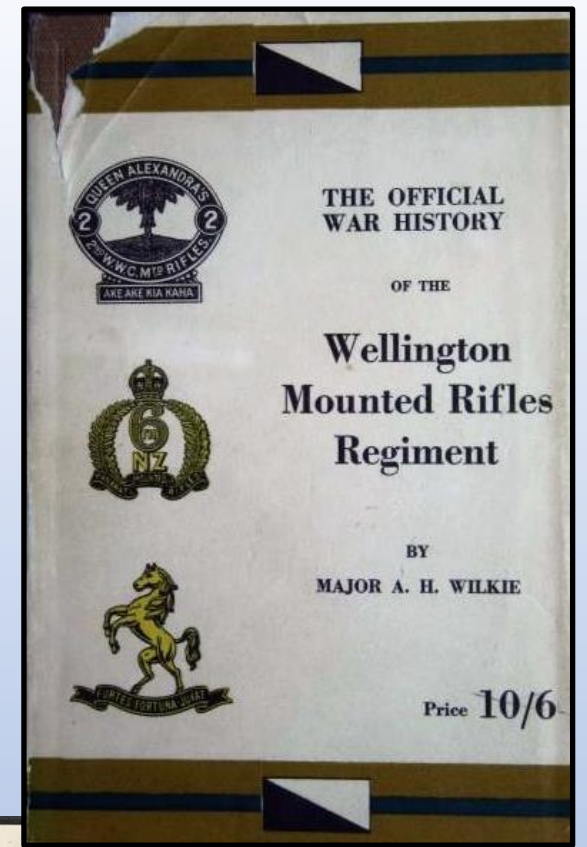


J Batter
Picture



nt in 1918.
erritorial
in 1911

Contribution to the First World War



WMR under LTCOL W. Meldrum at Awapuni Camp prior to embarkation



WMR Troopers in Jaffa, November 1917

Questions/ Discussion



Sixteen members of the Palmerston North Rifles pose with mascot, circa 1900

Sources (less NZ Archives, Papers Past or Images)¹

Published:

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- Cook, Peter and Crawford, John, *The Territorials: The History of the Territorial and Volunteer Forces of New Zealand*, 2011
- Stowers, Richard, *Rough Riders at War: History of New Zealand's Involvement in the Anglo-Boer War*, 2002
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Manawatu History:

- Bradfield, A.G.S., "Forgotten Days", 1956
- Buck, T. Lindsay, *Old Manawatu, or the Wild Days of the West*, 1903
- Patterson, G.C., *Palmerston North: A Centennial*, 1973

Unpublished

- Crawford, J.A.B., "The Role and Structure of the New Zealand Volunteer Force 1885- 1910", University of Canterbury MA thesis, 1986
- Hickman, Leanne, "Chronology of Palmerston North's Military and Defence History 1860- 1975", Compiled for the Palmerston North City Council, January 2017

(1). Refs to Archives, Papers Past and Images (Mainly Manawatu Heritage Site) are located in the Notes View of each slide where the item appears