

SWORD THRUSTS VOLUME 4

Camp 1924 is still fresh in the memories of most of us but to those who could not be present and to those who are prone to forget the following is officers. – It could not be said that the weather was good, it was far from it – raining for five days out of the nine allowed for training purposes. The horses sank in the mud on the lines and there was considerable sickness among them due to the cold rains and adverse conditions, one horse the property of Corporal Gale “B” Squadron died from pneumonia contracted under these conditions. The training was not up to the standard established by the Regiment at local camps 1922 and 1923, this could be attributed to weather conditions and to the fact that the other ranks allowed to train were insufficient. The latter is chiefly responsible for the lowering of the standard. It is impossible to train with any degree of satisfaction if there are only a handful of men to work with. Camp duties were also too heavy for the number of men available. The officers fared somewhat better as there were at least two officers to each Squadron, their duties were not so heavy, and they all received a small smattering of knowledge on the parade grounds.

While the above was very unfortunate and very disagreeable to all concerned it certainly could not be laid to the door of the District Headquarters. They allowed out Regiment and the 15th Canadian Light Horse a great training strength than any other unit in the service. We found all departments ready and willing to help us at all times. The officers and non-commissioned officers attached to us from the Lord Strathcona's Horse (R.C.) were all we could wish for, they knew their work and their method of imparting what they had to teach was of a high order. Had they, as well as we, been fortunate enough to have had sufficient men to work with and had weather conditions been favorable, excellent training would have been had.

The officers and non-commissioned officer did very well off parade. They had the opportunity of mixing with other messes of the Brigade and Permanent Force. The 19th officers were entertained by the 15th C.L.H. officers mess, Lord Strathcona's Horse (R.C.) and the R.C.H.A. messes also in camp and a splendid felling prevailed.

The 19th officers entertained at mess on Wednesday the 25th of June, a splendid dinner has been prepared by our chef and all assembled seemed to enjoy themselves very much. After dinner a few brief speeches were made by some of the senior officers present. These were followed by the usual camp after dinner sports and entertainment, Alpine sports came first and after a demonstration by Jock Strachan in climbing tent poles. Colonel Potter was sent up, he succeeded in passing the halfway mark but got in difficulties when he reached the wire entanglements on which the lights were hung, the pole bent to such a angle and the tent shook to such an extent that the genial Colonel was forced to abandon his climb.

Lieut.-Col. Page then showed us how the Strathcona's officers could “Shin up”. After several other officers had attempted this not too difficult climb with more or less indifferent success the 1924 championship was awarded jointly to Major Strachan, V.C. 19th Alberta dragoons and to Lieut.-Col. page, D.S.O. of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (R.C.). Several choruses were then sung, and the officers sat around the piano until midnight when the King was called for by the mess president. On leaving the mess tent a number of officers gathered together in groups and the party was far from being over, in fact it was a bright sun coming over the hills in the east that finally helped to decide some of the officers that the party was over. We have been told that a certain senior Artillery officer slipped off the plank walk into

the creek on his way home and that his servant would not speak to him for three days. Later reports inform us that the engineering department intend placing a rail along this foot bridge as it is more or less a trap in wet weather.

The following were invited: -

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RIFLE SHOOTING

At the conclusion of camp, the 19th rifle team remained over for the Alberta Rifle Association matches at Calgary. The following composed our team.

Lieut.-Col – P.E. Bowen	Regimental H.Q.
Captain John Carmichael	Corps Reserve
Lieut. M.H. Wright, M.M.	“B” Squadron
Lieut. L.R. Mattern	“B” Squadron
Sgt. John Saidler	“A” Squadron
Sgt. Dugal McInnis	Regimental H.A.
Sgt. Dave Spence	“B” Squadron
Trooper Alec. MacDonald	“B” squadron

Lieut.-Col. Bowen won the MacDonald Brier match and the Sales extra Series, these two matches appear to be to the Colonels liking, judging from the regularity with which he wins them.

Lieut. Wright also appears to be partial to a particular match, the Veterans again falling to him with top score. He also won the 103rd Regiment Match.

Other members of the team shot well and were well p in various matches, to illustrate the consistency of their shooting let us remember that seven out of the eight made the team to go east representing the Province at the Dominion rifle association matches at Ottawa. For business reasons only two could make the trip east, these were Capta. Carmichael and Sgt. Saidler.

Congratulations are due Sgt. Jack Bowen for his steady and consistent shooting during the past season.

At Bisley Sgt. Bowen shot well indeed, finishing 59th out a field of close to a thousand of the Empires best marksmen. His winnings there amounted to l17-10-0, being the amount pooled for team matches, and L 7-10-0 which he won in sweepstakes.

Returning to Canada he shot with the Alberta team at the Ontario Rifle Association matches in Toronto. Here he won the Macdonald Brier match and was well up in several others. The following is tabulated from the Toronto shot.

Match	Place	Prize
Macdonald Brier	1 st	\$20.00
City of Toronto	8 th	\$8.00
Duke of Cornwall & York	11 th	\$5.00
Bankers	12 th	\$5.00
Tait-Brassy	19 th	\$4.00
Osler	34 th	\$4.00
Total		\$30.60