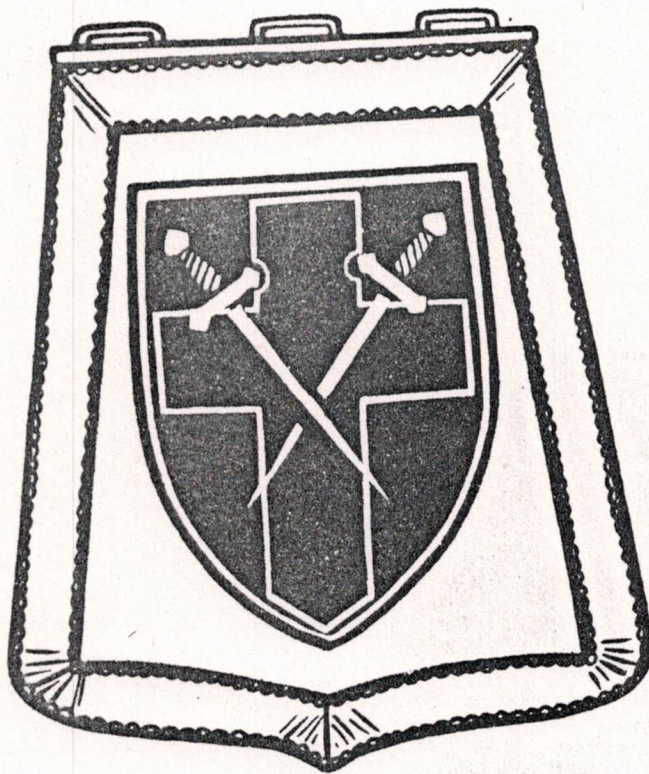


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COLONEL HARRY WILL PERRIN, V.D., A.G.A. (cont.)

by Major Warren Perry, R.L.

3. THE MILITIA FORCE.

At the beginning of 1884 the gradual disbandment of the Volunteer Force began in Victoria. It was replaced by the paid Militia Force.

The Williamstown Volunteer Battery of Garrison Artillery was disbanded and the services of every Volunteer in it dispensed with, with effect on and from 13th February 1884. (see "VICTORIA GOVT. GAZETTE" No 20, 16.2.1884, p.572). On the same day approval was given for the formation, subject to the provisions of the Discipline Act 1870, of the 1st Brigade of Garrison Artillery, with Headquarters at Geelong. This Brigade consisted initially of the Geelong Battery at Geelong, the Footscray Battery at Footscray and Williamstown, and the South Grant Battery at Drysdale and Queenscliff. Major Charles Rashleigh was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and appointed to command this Brigade with effect on and from the 4th January 1884.

The 2nd Brigade of Garrison Artillery was formed, with effect on and from the 20th February 1884, with Headquarters at Portland. This Brigade consisted initially of the Portland Battery, the Belfast Battery, and the Warrnambool Battery. (Vic. Govt. Gazette No 23, 22.2.1884, p.580). Major William Learmonth was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and appointed to command this Brigade with effect on and from the 4th January 1884.

On the same date, Captain George Hague was appointed Adjutant of the 1st Brigade of Garrison Artillery.

Approval was given on the 4th June 1884 to increase the strength of the 1st Brigade by an additional battery. This Battery was the Williamstown Battery at Williamstown. (Vic. Govt. Gazette No 66, 6.6.1884).

On 23rd June 1884, Major H.W. Douch, who had commanded the Williamstown Volunteer Artillery Corps since 7th August 1871, was placed on the Retired List. (Vic. Govt. Gazette No. 71, 27.6.1884). In order to complete the establishment of officers of the Williamstown Battery, approval was given on the 8th September 1884 for the promotion to the rank of Major of Captain H.W. Perrin, and for his posting to the command of this Battery. (Vic. Govt. Gazette No. 109, 12.9.1884). Major Perrin's seniority, as a Major in the Militia Force, was subsequently prescribed as at the 1st January 1884. (Vic. Govt. Gazette No. 127, 31.10.1884.) Perrin was to command the Williamstown Battery for the next six years.