

Encampment of The Wilts Volunteers

The first Battalion of the Wiltshire Volunteers encamped on the Warminster Down this week. The spot selected for the encampment was that used by the Yeomanry Cavalry for their drill when at Warminster and certainly a better site could not be chosen. The view was magnificent; the elevated situation ensured a delightfully cooling breeze even in those hot days; while arrangements in every respect left no cause for the Englishman's peculiar privilege of grumbling.

The various Corps - namely, the Salisbury, Trowbridge, Maiden Bradley, Mere, Bradford, Warminster, Westbury, and Wilton, marched to the Downs on Monday afternoon, and in a short time, so excellent were the arrangements, all appeared quite at home. Each company had its separate line of tents, and at the head of the line were those of the officers. At the summit of the general tents, such as the officers mess tent, the hospital tents, the orderly tent, the reading tent, the canteen - which was very spacious – and, the kitchen. The commissariat department had been entrusted to Messrs. Fortt, of Bath, and their arrangements were not less complete than those of the military authorities. Kitchen ranges were built, pumps sunk on the Abyssinian plan, the canteen was supplied with every requisite and even luxury; the tables were garnished with plants and flowers, and in short, there was nothing wanted to make the week one of delightful novelty.

The Warminster Corps mustered over 80. The Salisbury number on Monday was 48. Maiden Bradley furnished the very creditable number 55; Westbury 48, Bradford, Trowbridge and Wilton scantily represented.

On Monday there was a general parade, and Colonel Everett briefly addressed the men. Having welcomed them he spoke of the duties which they would be called upon to perform during the week. He further told them that to be a good soldier a man should be a Christian, and every morning there would be prayers. The gallant Colonel then explained the daily routine, and in conclusion expressed his hope that nothing would be done which would reflect discredit on the service, but that on the contrary, the Encampment would provide creditable to the country and the County of Wilts.

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