

O.R.'s had NO changes. We were issued with:

Jacket & collar badges (grenades)
 Hat, puggaree & "Rising Sun" badge
 Cap, (which was known as Cap, Ridiculous"
 Breeches
 Leggings
 Spurs
 Boots
 Lanyard (White)
 Greatcoat
 Skill at Arms badges. I only recall Gun Layer
 and Signallers Badges...there were others.

Officers received a small cash allowance - some 5 or 6 Pounds. The total cost was some hundreds of pounds, even then. It really mounted up, when one considers the Navy Jacket, trousers, cap, Boots, Box spurs, 2 heavy uniforms, 1 Summer Uniform, Raincoat, boots, Breeches (2), Leggings, Spurs, Mess Kit and sundry items (sticks and so forth.

The Army found Sam Browne Belts, but all other clothing and underwear was provided by ourselves, both as O.R.'s and as Officers.

Parades

Parades were held weekly at Warrane Road, Willoughby, at 7.30 p.m. There were also Voluntary rides, Gun Laying classes, practice and tests, Mostly on Sundays which started at 9 a.m.

Pay Rates

Major 30/-, Captain 22/6, Lieutenant 15/-, Driver 5/-, Gunner 4/-, all per day. I think these rates remained throughout the War. The Gunners may then have been given a huge rise of 1/- to 5/-.

Camps

I think we were only in Camp for a Week. At Liverpool. In October/November, I think

Accommodation was rough. A hessian Paliasse was provided ~~which~~ which the Troops partly filled with straw. There were no pillows or sheets. Blankets were issued. Troops were quartered in the 1914/1918 buildings - they were badly knocked about with very many bayonet holes.

Troops had their meals in frontless buildings with tables and fixed seats. It was not too good. I seem to recall that the ration allowance was 9 pence per day. I think stews were rather regular, slopped out by civilian so called cooks, into our own enamel plates.

Training

This was more or less Individual Training. We had Camps but getting a Brigade together in those Depression days was rather a battle. We trained mostly with horses, but at the outbreak of War, we had a number of civilian trucks. It was rather a mess.

Equitation

I do not recall much about this. Sunday rides (voluntary) Camps and so forth.

Schools

Until the outbreak of War, these seem to have been rather rare. I think we were all worried about our jobs!

Promotion

To non-commissioned rank, this, I think, was made by officers of the Battery. Its speed depended very much on the individual. To commissioned rank, it was a matter of going to Victoria Barracks, having been so recommended, and going through the torture of the damned. Quite a deal.

Recruiting At the time Government money was rather short, and the Army did not seem to worry much about this aspect. They may have of course, but I didn't know much about it.

There was a bit of a War scare in, (I think), 1938 and Billy Hughes was quite a leader. We were inundated with hundreds of men wanting to enlist...a very different picture. In addition to the 25th, 27th and 107th batteries, which were already full, a 26th Battery was raised.

Compulsory Training No comment.

Social Activities A Regimental Ball was held, I think annually. They were very successful functions.

Incidents There were quite a few, but after all this time, I have forgotten.

Competitions I only recall one such event and that was the major event.....the Mount Shanck Trophy. As part of the preparation, I had the Dust Caps buffed.... they were highly polished, but were definitely just steel. Sadly, the Regimental entry ~~was~~ was disqualified, the judges having believed that the Dust Caps were Chrome Plated.

Q

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