



British Guiana.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## BRITISH GUIANA VOLUNTEER FORCE

FOR THE YEAR

**1959**



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(Published by the Authority of His Excellency the Governor)

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1. GENERAL

This report covers the period 1st January to 31st December, 1959, during which time the Force was commanded by Lt. Colonel C.M. Bernard, O.B.E., E.D., except for the period 20th May to 28th November, when it was commanded by Major C.L. deFreitas during Lt. Colonel Bernard's absence on leave.

2. TRAINING

(a) CAMP

The Annual Training Camp was held from 14th to 28th February, at Tacama. A total of 578 officers and men attended, including 5 officers and 79 other ranks of "C" Coy., 1st Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment, who assisted in the training carried out.

(b) During this period the following training was carried out:

( i ) Range Classification - all companies.

( ii ) Demonstration by "C" Coy. 1 WORC R., viz:-

Section Organisation, Field Signals, Section Formations, Camouflage and Concealment, Standing Recce, Fighting Patrols, Section in the Assault, Platoon in the Attack, Field Firing.

(iii) Section and Platoon Training.

( iv ) Platoon and Section Orders - attack and defence.

( v ) Battle procedure - study periods and Tactical Exercises without Troops for officers and NCOs.

( vi ) Company Training: Advance to contact, quick attack, withdrawal, Inter-Section Field firing competition.

(c) Platoon, company and battalion exercises were also held in the field, including one of 36 hours duration in which 420 all ranks participated.

(d) RECRUIT TRAINING

Recruits in camp were trained in Foot and Arms Drill, Elementary Fieldcraft and firing on the miniature range.

(e) Other Camp activities included the Annual Inspection by the Honorary Colonel, Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E., and a sports meeting of track and field events.

(f) During the remainder of the year, the following training was carried out:

( i ) Officers - Signal Training.

( ii ) ORs - MMG and Signals,  
Weapon training.  
Battalion Drill.

/CEREMONIALS

CEREMONIALS

The Force provided Guards of Honour on the occasion of the opening of the Legislative Council on 15th December, and for the arrival of His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Sir Ralph Grey, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., on 22nd December.

The parade to celebrate the Queen's Birthday did not take place owing to rain.

3. ALLIANCE WITH THE WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

During the year, Her Majesty the Queen approved an alliance between the Worcestershire Regiment and The British Guiana Volunteer Force, which was promulgated in Army Order 58 of 1959.

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PART II

PERSONNEL

1. PERSONNEL

( i ) ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTH

The Establishment of the Force for the year 1959 and the Strength on 31st December, 1959, were as follows:

	<u>ESTABLISHMENT</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>
		on 31/12/59
<u>OFFICERS</u>		
Lieutenant Colonels	1	- 1
Major (Second-in-Command)	1	- 1
Majors (Company Commanders & Staff Officer)	8	- 7
Captains	10	- 7
Subalterns	19 - 39	- 14 - 30
<u>OTHER RANKS</u>		
Warrant Officers Class I	2	- 2
Warrant Officers Class II	9	- 12
Colour Sergeants)		
Sergeants )	44	- 42
Corporals	67	- 54
Lance Corporals	65	- 59
Privates	374 - 561	- 371 - 540
Total	- 600	- 570

( ii ) RECRUITMENT

During the year 4 officers were brought on strength.

2. DISPOSITION

During the year the disposition of the Force was as under:

/(i).....

( 3 )

		<u>Officers</u>	<u>ORs</u>	<u>Total All Ranks</u>
( i ) <u>Georgetown:</u>	Pn. HQ.	5	26	31
	HQ. Coy.	4	116	120
	3 Rifle Coys.	14	266	280
( ii ) <u>New Amsterdam:</u>	1 Rifle Coy. & Band	5	93	98
( iii ) <u>Mackenzie:</u>	1 Rifle Coy.	2	39	41
		<u>30</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>570</u>

### 3. MORALE AND EFFICIENCY

The morale of the Force remained high during the period under review, and was reflected in the numbers attending Camp, which was the highest yet.

### 4. QUEEN'S COLLEGE CADET CORPS

( i ) The present strength of the Queen's College Cadet Corps is as follows:

Captains	1
Lieutenants	2
Second Lieutenants	-
CSM	1
Sergeants	1
Corporals	8
Lance Corporals	8
Cadets	61
Recruits	<u>42</u>
	124
Cadet Officers	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>125</u>

### ( ii ) TRAINING

Training was done under BGVF instructors according to the syllabus for the Basic and Army Proficiency Tests. The recruits had completed the syllabus in Foot Drill and had their Passing Out Parade. Forty recruits were successful. The Training Programme also included periods in Company Drill in preparation for the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph in which 37 Cadets and NCOs and one officer from Q.C.C.C. participated. Miniature range shooting was held for the more advanced cadets in November and December.

### ( iii ) CAMP

The annual camp was held from 3rd to 13th August at Tacama. Sixty-nine Cadets, two Cadet Officers, two officers from Q.C.C.C., an administrative staff from BGVF and a platoon from "C" Coy. 1 WORC R attended.

Training at camp was mainly revision for the Basic and Proficiency Tests which were held towards the end of camp under the instructors from 1 WORC R. Owing to a lack of maps, the map-reading parts of the tests were omitted.

15 candidates took the Proficiency examination and 19 the Basic.

In addition, there was shooting on both the Miniature and the Open Ranges.

/BASIC.....

BASIC AND PROFICIENCY TESTS

- (a) Number of Cadets with Certificate A Part I or II - 11
- (b) Number of Cadets passing Basic or Army Proficiency Tests in the period July/December, 1959 - Not yet known.
- (c) Number of Cadets under instruction for Basic and Army Proficiency Tests - 68
- (d) Number of Cadets awaiting Testing for Basic and Army Proficiency Tests - 68

It is intended that these examinations should be taken at the annual camp in 1960.

The map-reading section of the Basic and Proficiency Tests was carried out in October at Queen's College, and the results have not yet been received. Further promotions will depend upon these results.

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PART III

The Force is equipped with standard equipment for an Infantry Battalion most of which was handed over by the British Government at the end of the last war for the establishment of such a Force, and still remains on charge and in use. Replacement of items such as uniforms and general equipment subject to wear and tear is procured annually by means of local purchases and indenting on the Crown Agents, from funds provided by the annual vote.

The Force is equipped with the following vehicles:

TYPE OF VEHICLE	ON THE ROAD	BEYOND REPAIR
3-Ton Trucks, Bedford	2	...
15-cwt. Land Rovers	2	1
Motor Cycles	1	2

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## PART IV

CGST1. TOTAL VOTE AND ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

(a)	The total vote under Head 50 - Volunteer Force - for 1959 was	- \$ 106,232:
	Supplementary Provision	- <u>5,360:</u> - \$ 111,592.00
	Total expenditure for the same period	- \$ <u>108,410.58</u>
		- \$ <u>3,181.42</u>

Note: No items of extraordinary expenditure were involved in the above.

2. DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE

Sub-Head	Item	Amount Voted	Amount Spent
1	Personal Emoluments (Fixed Establishment)	\$ 36,267:	- \$ 36,186.51
	Personal Emoluments (Unfixed)	48,875:	- 50,375.26
2	Transport and Travelling	4,400:	- 6,344.40
3	Ammunition, Arms and Equipment	5,000:	- 5,236.56
4	Fuel and Lighting	500:	- 588.89
5	Sanitation and Labourers Tools	250:	- 248.22
6	Maintenance - Transport	750:	- 685.83
7	Miscellaneous	300:	- 171.61
8	Uniforms	8,000:	- 7,704.30
9	Training Grant	250:	- 79.72
10	Maintenance of Furniture	240:	- 30.90
11	Maintenance of Band	400:	- 22.12
12	Upkeep, Haywood Camp, Tacama	1,000:	- 736.26

( ii)(a) Under Sub-Head 1, items 1 to 10 are emoluments paid to the Permanent Staff in their respective salary scales.

(b) Supplementary provision totalling \$5,360: was sought under the following Sub-Heads:

Under Sub-Head 1, items 11 to 14, an amount of \$2,963: was sought to provide for outstanding 1958 payments for parades, and also pay for increased number of personnel attending camp 1959.

Under Sub-Head 2 - \$2,020: - A greater number of officers and men attended the Annual Training Camp held at Tacama, and the cost of transportation was higher.

/Under.....

Under Sub-Head 3 - \$277: - An additional cost of laundering hammocks, blankets, etc., as a result of the increased numbers attending camp.

Under Sub-Head 4 - \$100: - For additional cost of fuel, etc., for vehicles used at camp.

(c) DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE FOR CAMP, 1959

Camp Pay	- \$ 34,089:
Rations	- 7,370:
Travelling	- 3,805:
Freight on Stores	- 879:
Sundries	- <u>1,476:</u> - \$ 47,619:

(d) Parade Pay for period 1 Nov 58 to 22 Dec 59 was  
\$ 4,352:

C.M. BERNARD,  
Lt. Colonel,  
Commanding,  
The British Guiana Volunteer Force.