



THIRD SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
VICTORIA
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

OF FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1900.

Published by Authority.

No. 75.]

THURSDAY, JULY 12.

[1900.

Defences and Discipline Act 1890, Part I.

REVISED REGULATIONS FOR RIFLE CLUBS.

*At the Executive Council Chamber, Melbourne, the tenth day of
July, 1900.*

PRESENT :

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Davies

Mr. Melville.

WHEREAS by Part I. of the *Defences and Discipline Act* 1890 it is provided that the Governor in Council may make Rules and Regulations for the employment, removal, or dismissal, and for the better government of persons engaged by virtue of the said Part of the said Act, and for enforcing good order and discipline among them, and otherwise carrying out the said Part of the said Act, and from time to time annul, alter, or amend the same and substitute others in lieu thereof : And whereas the Governor in Council has from time to time made certain Rules and Regulations for the said purposes : And whereas it is expedient to annul all such Rules and Regulations so made as relate to the Rifle Clubs, and to make new Rules and Regulations : Now therefore His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, with the advice of the Executive Council thereof, doth by this present Order annul from the 1st day of July, 1900, all previous Rules and Regulations regarding Rifle Clubs, and doth make the Rules and Regulations following, to take effect from and after the 1st day of July, 1900, that is to say :—

1. The officer appointed by the Governor in Council on 21st May, 1900, shall be Officer Commanding Rifle Clubs, and, if a vacancy occur, an officer of the Victorian Military Forces may be appointed by the Governor in Council to be Officer Commanding Rifle Clubs, hereinafter designated "Officer Commanding."

The Officer Commanding shall retain his rank and seniority on the Active List of the Victorian Military Forces; he shall be exempted from the provisions of the General Regulations as to retirement; and he shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor in Council.

2. The Officer Commanding shall, in all matters relating to the use of arms, discipline, and other subjects of a military nature, conform to the orders of the Military Commandant, and shall take steps to have such orders obeyed throughout his command. The Officer Commanding shall exercise the same powers and authority as given to Commanding Officers under the regulations for the Victorian Military Forces.

3. The Officer Commanding may recommend fit and proper persons as officers to assist in the organization, inspection, and administration of Rifle Clubs. Such recommendations shall be submitted to the Military Commandant for approval, and, if approved, the Council of Defence may, on the nomination of the Commandant, recommend to the Governor in Council that such persons be appointed Officers on the Staff of Rifle Clubs.

4. The Officer Commanding, and the officers under his command, shall in all things obey the orders and directions of the Government, and shall be prepared at all times to afford the Minister of Defence any information he may require as to the efficiency of all or any of the Rifle Clubs with regard to discipline, equipment, and preparedness for service with other branches of the defence force.

5. All orders and directions of the Government with respect to the administration of Rifle Clubs will be communicated to the Military Commandant by the Minister of Defence, or through the Secretary of Defence, and the Commandant shall issue the necessary orders to give effect to the same. All communications intended for the Minister of Defence shall be addressed to, and forwarded through, the Secretary, as the channel of communication with the Minister of Defence.

6. If the Officer Commanding, or any officer under his command, at any time neglect or refuse to carry out and give full and complete effect to the orders and directions of the Government, the Minister of Defence may, if he think fit, recommend to the Governor in Council that the said Officer Commanding or such officer (as the case may be) be suspended or removed, and he may thereupon be removed by the Governor in Council.

7. Rifle Clubs may, on the recommendation of the Officer Commanding, be established in such localities as may be authorized by the Governor in Council.

8. Before any club can be formed not less than 40 men, over the age of 16 years, and who are *bond fide* residents of the locality in which it is desired to form the club, must be enrolled, and must have taken and subscribed the oath set forth in paragraph 10 of these Regulations.

(Enrolment forms will be supplied on application to the Officer Commanding Rifle Clubs, Melbourne.)

The enrolment forms when completed must be forwarded to the Officer Commanding, who will transmit them through the proper channel to the Minister of Defence.

In special cases the Minister of Defence may, on the recommendation of the Military Commandant, authorize two detachments of the same club to be established, provided that the distance between them does not exceed 10 miles.

Every club must maintain a strength of 40 active members, or disbandment will follow, but in special cases, on the approval of the Military Commandant, the strength to be maintained may be reduced.

Clubs less than 40 in number that were formed under the old Regulations prior to the 1st July, 1900, can be enrolled.

In no case can a member of any other branch of the Victorian Defence Force be anything but an honorary member of a Rifle Club, and under no circumstances is his name to be shown on any list of members submitted to Head-quarters as claiming any privilege allowed to a Rifle Club member; but any officer of the Victorian Defence Force may, on the recommendation of the Officer Commanding, and with the sanction of the Commandant, be permitted to act as Captain of any club whose members elect him to the position.

Members of any other branch of the Victorian Defence Force who cease to belong to such other branch must, if they desire to join a Rifle Club, enrol in the club as new members.

9. Should the application to establish a club be approved, the approval will be notified by an Order in Council published in the *Government Gazette*, whereupon the club may be formed.

10. Every person who shall be accepted as a member of a Rifle Club shall, upon such his acceptance and before he shall be ranked as an effective member thereof, take and subscribe before some justice or Commissioner of the Supreme Court for taking affidavits the following oath of allegiance :—

I, A.B., do swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lady the Queen in the Victorian Defence Force for a period of three years, or until sooner legally discharged, dismissed, or removed, and that I will oppose and resist Her Majesty's enemies, and cause Her Majesty's peace to be kept and preserved, whether employed upon land or at sea, and that I will prevent to the best of my power all offences against the same, and that while I continue to act in the same I will to the best of my skill and knowledge faithfully discharge my duty according to law.

SO HELP ME GOD.

And shall be liable in the event of a national emergency to serve on the same conditions as are imposed in other branches of the Victorian Military Forces.

11. Every club shall elect a Captain, and the property of the club shall be vested in a Committee consisting of such Captain and two members. The Captain, or a deputy authorized by him, will correspond with the Defence Department as follows :—

- (a) Correspondence on all subjects should be addressed to "The Officer Commanding Rifle Clubs, Melbourne."
- (b) All payments to the Defence Department are to be made by cheque, post-office order, or postal note made payable to the Paymaster, Naval and Military Forces, or order; and this must be carefully complied with.

To avoid confusion, subjects in (a) or (b) should be sent in *separate envelopes*. When ordering rifles, the names of the members for whom they are ordered must be given.

12. The Captain shall maintain order and discipline among the members of the club at all rifle practice and other meetings thereof, and shall be responsible to the Officer Commanding for the proper carrying out of all orders and regulations that may be issued from time to time. It shall be his special duty to see that rifle practice is carried out with due precaution for the safety of the public and of all concerned, but he may appoint any member of the club to perform such duty as his deputy when he cannot attend personally.

13. The standard set of rules approved by the Governor in Council shall be the rules for clubs.

14. Captains of clubs may, on application to the Officer Commanding, be supplied with rifles and ammunition for members of their clubs who have taken and subscribed to the oath, and for members of the Police Force who are honorary members.

	s.	d.
M.-H. Rifles, old, without Bayonet	10	0 each
M.-H. Rifle Ammunition, rolled (per 100 rounds)	2	6
M.-E. Rifles, new, without Bayonet, to Marksmen and 1st class shots	40	0
M.-E. Rifle Ammunition (per 100 rounds) ...	5	0

But the issue of M.-E. Rifles and ammunition may at any time, on the recommendation of the Officer Commanding, be extended to other members. Other articles will be supplied at the rates set forth in the Ordnance Stores Price List, application for which should be made to Controller of Stores, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

15. Members of clubs will, during membership, be required to keep their arms and accoutrements in good order, and produce them when called on for inspection by the Officer Commanding or other officer deputed by him. No member can part with the rifle issued to him during the first three years of his service except to another member of the club or to the club. At the end of three years' continuous service and compliance with the Regulations for Rifle Clubs, the rifle and accoutrements shall become private property. This rule applies only to rifles issued after payment under paragraph 14.

16. Rifles, ammunition, and accoutrements supplied by Government will be delivered, carriage free, at any railway station named by the Captain of the club. The Captain signing receipts for such or any other articles of Government property issued for the use of members of the club will be held responsible for their safe

custody or proper distribution, and will issue no articles without obtaining the written receipt of the member to whom he issues them, and such receipt alone will absolve him from the responsibility for the said articles, which will then rest upon the member to whom they have been issued.

17. Every member who has been engaged and has taken and subscribed the oath will be entitled to be conveyed to and from all musters, parades, and rifle practice over the Victorian State Railways, in accordance with section 43 of the *Defences and Discipline Act 1890*. In cases where warrants for travelling free by Railway are necessary, the same shall be signed by the Officer Commanding or by an officer deputed by him for the purpose.

18. Two hundred (200) rounds of ammunition for individual practice will be issued free annually to the club for every member who has taken and subscribed the oath, and for every member of the Police Force who is an honorary member, and who, if not a new member, has completed the Musketry practice prescribed for the previous year, part of which ammunition is to be expended as follows :—

PRACTICE WITH MILITARY TARGETS AND SCORING.

10 rounds at 200 yards range—	Standing.	At targets 4 ft. by 4 ft.
10 300 "	Kneeling.	"
10 400 "	Any military position.	At targets 6 ft. by 6 ft.
10 500 "	"	"
10 " per quarter, field firing,	will be issued on the requisition of the Officer Commanding.	

Details of this practice must be forwarded to the Officer Commanding not later than the 15th July in each year, but the actual firing must take place *during the twelve months ending on the previous 30th June*.

Members of clubs who joined after 1st January, 1900, may be excused by the Officer Commanding for not having completed the practice prescribed by Rule 12 of the Regulations heretofore in force.

The above conditions of practice may be modified or altered by the Officer Commanding, by issuing an order to all Rifle Clubs in the month of July in any year.

19. At the conclusion of the annual practice, a classification will be made as follows :—

CLASSIFICATION.

Men who have obtained 142 points—	Marksman.
" " 129	1st Class.
" " 103	2nd "
" " 77	3rd . "

Every man obtaining 142 points shall receive and be entitled to wear a marksman's badge for the year in which he becomes a marksman; but should he fail to again secure the number of points requisite in order to be so classed he must relinquish it.

The conditions of classification may be modified or altered by the Officer Commanding, by issuing an order to all Rifle Clubs in the month of July in any year.

The best shot of the whole of the Rifle Clubs, and the best shot of each Rifle Club District, shall receive and be entitled to wear a badge similar to that worn by the best shot of a Regiment and Company respectively.

20. The Government will contribute £10 for every new rifle range where the club has a membership of not less than 40; and £20 where the membership is not less than 100; such money to be paid when voted by Parliament, on certificate of the Officer Commanding.

21. The Officer Commanding may depute an officer or some other qualified person to inspect and report on the suitability of any site proposed for a new rifle range, or to inspect any completed range and report as to its safety for rifle practice.

22. Rifle practices shall not be held at any new rifle range until the issue by the Officer Commanding of an order authorizing the use of such new rifle range.

23. If any accident should happen to a marker or to any other person while practice is proceeding, the same should be reported at once by the Captain of the Club to the Officer Commanding.

24. For the purposes of these Regulations, all clubs will be formed into districts, which will comprise several clubs, to be determined by the Officer Commanding, and be known by a district or other name, or by a number. The clubs of one district

will be permitted, with the sanction of the Officer Commanding, to meet once a quarter at certain places in the district to be fixed upon from time to time; and at such meetings field-firing will take place at unknown distances, on such conditions as to targets, mode of firing, and scoring as may from time to time be prescribed by the Officer Commanding. Where the clubs are much scattered special field-firing parades may be arranged by the Officer Commanding.

25. On or before the 15th day of July in every year the Captain shall forward to the Officer Commanding a return showing—

- (a) The names of all members of the club on the 30th June, and opposite every name state whether in possession of a rifle or not; if possessing a rifle, the number and description is to be given.
- (b) The number and description of rifles in possession of the club on the 30th June.

Printed forms for the return will be supplied by the Officer Commanding. No free ammunition will be supplied to any club from which this return and the annual musketry return have not been received.

26. The Captain or his deputy shall at once inform the Officer Commanding of the death, departure from the district, or resignation of any member. Absence for a longer period than three months from the locality in which a club is established shall mean departure from the district, and any member so absent, except on leave obtained from the Officer Commanding, shall be liable to be struck off the strength of the club to which he belongs; provided that any man on leaving the locality of his club may, at his own request, made in writing to his club Captain, be transferred to a club convenient to his intended place of residence, if the latter Rifle Club elect him as a member, and the transfer has been approved by the Officer Commanding.

27. In the event of any club falling below its minimum establishment of active members, or of these Rules being disregarded, all privileges accorded to such club may be withdrawn temporarily or permanently.

28. Any one joining a Rifle Club must join that one situated nearest to his place of domicile, unless authority is granted by the Officer Commanding for him to join another club. No man shall join a Rifle Club situated at a greater distance than 10 miles from his place of domicile without the sanction of the Officer Commanding.

29. No man can, on any pretence whatever, join a Rifle Club whilst he is on the rolls of another Rifle Club.

30. Any member may resign by giving fourteen days' notice in writing to the Captain of his club, and, on such resignation being accepted by the Officer Commanding, his name shall be removed from the list of members. In the case of members who are in possession of Government property, the same must be returned in good order before the resignation can be accepted.

31. Any member who so desires may, on the recommendation of the Officer Commanding and the approval of the Military Commandant, be attached temporarily to any other corps of the Victorian Defence Force for purposes of instruction. While under instruction members of Rifle Clubs shall be subject to the same discipline as that imposed upon the members of corps to which they are temporarily attached.

32. The Officer Commanding may delegate his authority to any officer of his Staff or to any officer of the Victorian Defence Force temporarily attached to his Staff by the Military Commandant.

33. The Military Commandant may, on the recommendation of the Officer Commanding, dismiss any member of a Rifle Club for a breach of these regulations or for any conduct which, in the opinion of the Officer Commanding, may bring discredit on Rifle Clubs.

34. The Officer Commanding may appoint fit and proper persons, without pay, to give instruction to members, and every such person shall be under the control and direction of the Captain of the club, or of any officer deputed by the Officer Commanding.

STANDARD RULES.

Referred to in Para. 13 of the Regulations for Rifle Clubs.

RULES OF THE RIFLE CLUB.

1. This club shall be known as the Rifle Club.
2. Any person duly elected in accordance with the by-laws may become a member of the club on payment of such entrance-fee and annual subscription as may be fixed thereby.
3. Life members may be enrolled on payment of a donation to be fixed by the by-laws.
4. The business of the club shall be managed by a Committee, consisting of a Captain, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Members, and such other officers (if any) as may be prescribed by the by-laws, three to form a quorum.
5. The office-bearers and members of committee shall be elected at the annual meeting of the club, which shall be held on such date as may be fixed by the by-laws.
6. Any office-bearer or member of committee being absent for three consecutive meetings of the committee shall be liable, at the discretion of the committee, to have his seat declared vacant.
7. Any vacancy in the committee, caused either by resignation or by enforced retirement under Rule 6, may be filled up by the committee.
8. All meetings of the committee shall be convened by the Secretary; but should he fail to do so within seven days after receiving a requisition signed by two members of the committee, any two such members may themselves convene a meeting of the committee.
9. No meeting of the committee shall be held to have been duly convened unless a written notice be forwarded to each member thereof at least 24 hours prior to such meeting.
10. The annual meeting of the club for the election of office-bearers shall be convened by advertisement in at least one paper circulating in the district, and not less than seven days' notice shall be given of such meeting.
11. A balance-sheet, duly audited by two members appointed at the preceding annual meeting, shall be laid before the members at every annual meeting. Should a vacancy or vacancies occur among the auditors, the committee shall have power to fill the position.
12. The Captain shall, unless it be otherwise prescribed by the by-laws, preside at all committee meetings and all general meetings at which he is present. In his absence the members present may elect a chairman for any meeting.
13. The Captain, or a deputy appointed by him, will conduct all correspondence with the Officer Commanding Rifle Clubs.
14. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all general meetings of members and of meetings of the committee, and shall conduct all correspondence ordered by the committee, and he may, if duly authorized, act as the deputy of the Captain.
15. The subscription of every member shall become due on such date as may be fixed by the by-laws, and no one shall be entitled to the privileges of membership until his subscription be paid.
16. No member, by reason of his being such, shall have any estate or interest in the property of the club other than the right to use the club property at the rifle ranges, in accordance with the resolutions or decisions of the committee.
17. A general meeting of the club shall be called at any time by the Secretary on receiving a requisition signed by so many members as may be prescribed by the by-laws; the time and object of such general meeting to be advertised one week previous to such meeting.
18. Any member may be expelled from the club against whom a vote for his expulsion shall have been carried by a majority of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting specially called to consider the case.
19. The practice days of the club shall be as fixed by the by-laws, but the committee may, on giving due notice to every member, alter the time as they may think necessary, or appoint such other days in addition to the above as may appear expedient.
20. After providing for the necessary expenses of the club, the committee may expend the balance of any moneys other than those received from Government in granting prizes to its members; the rifle matches at which such prizes are to be competed for being duly notified by advertisement.

21. In addition to the annual subscription, the committee shall have power to exact such entrance-fee as may be prescribed by the by-laws from every member who shall compete in a match for prizes, provided always that the entrance-fees be devoted to the prize list.

22. The rules for the matches and club practices, the distances, the conditions of firing, the nature and value of the prizes, and all other details, shall be decided by the committee.

23. The committee, subject to the approval of a general meeting of the club, shall have power to frame such by-laws as may from time to time be necessary for carrying on the business of this club.

24. The conditions and regulations of the Victorian Rifle Association shall generally be observed in the matches and practices of the club.

And the Honorable Donald Melville, Her Majesty's Minister of Defence for Victoria, shall give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

THOS. BRISBANE,
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council.

