

**REPORT OF THE
ACTING CHIEF OF
ORDNANCE, 1908**

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Report of the Acting Chief of Ordnance, 1908 by John M. Portal

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JOHN M. PORTAL

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REPORT OF THE ACTING CHIEF OF ORDNANCE.

HEADQUARTERS ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT,
SOUTH ARMORY, IRVINGTON STREET, BOSTON, December 31, 1908.

Brig. Gen'l WILLIAM H. BRIGHAM, *Adjutant General*.

SIR:— In the absence of the chief of this department, I have the honor to submit the report of small arms work for the year ending Dec. 31, 1908.

EFFICIENCY, 1908.

The following table summarizes the work of the year:—

Marksmen in service October 31,	5,108
Unqualified officers and men in service October 31,	560
Aggregate strength,	5,668

The return of unqualified officers and men for 1907 and 1908 is given for the purpose of comparison:—

	1907.	1908.
Coast Artillery Corps,	94	62
Second Infantry,	313	239
Fifth Infantry,	46	20
Sixth Infantry,	4	—
Eighth Infantry,	82	29
Ninth Infantry,	226	133
First Corps Cadets,	10	—
Second Corps Cadets,	13	20
Naval Brigade,	26	26
First Squadron Cavalry,	18	3
Signal Corps,	—	13
First Brigade staff,	6	2
Second Brigade staff,	—	1
General staff and staff departments,	—	12

HONORABLE MENTION.

Companies having the maximum legal enrollment, and who qualified every officer and man:—

- Coast Artillery Corps, Fifth, Sixth and Ninth companies.
- Second Infantry, Company F.
- Fifth Infantry, Company E.
- Sixth Infantry, companies E, F, H, I and K.
- Eighth Infantry, companies C, E and F.

Companies having less than full legal enrollment, and who qualified every officer and man:—

Coast Artillery Corps, Fourth Company.
 Second Infantry, Company G.
 Fifth Infantry, companies A, G, H and L.
 Sixth Infantry, companies A, B, C, D, G, L and M.
 Eighth Infantry, companies A, I, K and M.
 Ninth Infantry, companies L and M.
 First Corps Cadets, companies A, B, C and D.
 Naval Brigade, companies A, B, G and H.

Forty companies qualified every officer and man.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

The qualification requirements for the year were those laid down under Class C, Small Arms Firing Regulations, U. S. A., 1906.

FIGURE OF MERIT.

The figure of merit for 1908 is 101.18.

	1906.	1907.	1908.
Coast Artillery Corps,	92.24	85.50	94.94
Second Infantry,	52.68	59.97	63.97
Fifth Infantry,	86.39	95.80	101.28
Sixth Infantry,	103.51	115.27	129.32
Eighth Infantry,	106.97	98.20	116.82
Ninth Infantry,	57.58	61.73	76.26
First Corps Cadets,	142.14	145.27	146.15
Second Corps Cadets,	84.69	98.45	106.38
Naval Brigade,	95.34	105.33	112.03
First Squadron Cavalry,	95.34	90.20	112.32
Consolidated figure of merit,	87.52	90.88	101.18

DECORATIONS AND TROPHIES.

The usual engravings and cups have been awarded to the winning teams in the State, regimental and battalion competitions; also the customary medals and cups to the individual prize winners. These, with the qualification badges, bars and buttons, make an aggregate of 7,810 prizes and decorations.

PISTOL PRACTICE.

Nine hundred and eighty officers and men have been returned to this office as qualified with the pistol, up to this date, and there are a few returns yet to be received.

STATE RIFLE COMPETITION.

The annual State rifle competition was held on the range of the Bay State Military Rifle Association, at Reading, Mass., September 18 and 19, under the personal direction of Col. John Caswell, Inspector General of Small Arms Practice.

Scores made in Tri-color Competition.

Fifth Infantry,	2,133
Coast Artillery Corps,	2,077
Second Infantry,	2,073
Sixth Infantry,	2,059
Eighth Infantry,	2,020
First Corps Cadets,	2,012
First Squadron Cavalry,	1,963
Ninth Infantry,	1,916
Naval Brigade,	1,828
Second Corps Cadets,	1,691

Scores made in the "Douglas Trophy" Match.

Sixth Infantry,	1,139
Fifth Infantry,	972
First Corps Cadets,	953
Coast Artillery Corps,	917
Eighth Infantry,	917
Second Infantry,	833
Ninth Infantry,	758
Naval Brigade,	754
First Squadron Cavalry,	731
Second Corps Cadets,	681

Comparative Scores made in the Tri-color Match.

	1907.	1908.
Sixth Infantry,	2,038	2,059
First Corps Cadets,	1,877	2,012
Coast Artillery Corps,	1,857	2,077
Eighth Infantry,	1,850	2,020
Fifth Infantry,	1,823	2,133
Second Infantry,	1,792	2,073
Ninth Infantry,	1,761	1,916
Naval Brigade,	1,720	1,828
Second Corps Cadets,	1,692	1,691
First Squadron Cavalry,	1,549	1,963

Comparative Scores made in "Douglas Trophy" Match.

	1907.	1908.
Fifth Infantry,	1,076	972
Coast Artillery Corps,	994	917
Sixth Infantry,	990	1,139
First Corps Cadets,	980	953
Second Infantry,	947	833
Eighth Infantry,	931	917
Naval Brigade,	863	754
Second Corps Cadets,	814	681

PISTOL COMPETITION.

The pistol competition was held on September 23, and there were 5 prizes awarded.

Prize Winners.

First. — Sergt. F. M. Libby, Troop D, First Squadron Cavalry; score, 281.

Second. — Capt. William R. Murphy, Ordnance Department; score, 269.

Third. — Lieut. George Faber, staff Sixth Infantry; score, 259.

Fourth. — Capt. Stuart W. Wise, Ordnance Department; score, 258.

Fifth. — Q. M. Sergt. E. A. Cox, Company B, Sixth Infantry; score, 248.

Regimental and Corps Competition.

Company teams of 10; 5 shots each at 200, 300 and 500 yards; possible score, 750 points.

Coast Artillery Corps. — September 17. Winning team, headquarters, Boston; score, 617.

Second Infantry. — October 17. Winning team, Company B of Springfield; score, 646.

Fifth Infantry. — September 7. Winning team, Company G of Woburn; score, 637.

Sixth Infantry. — No report.

Eighth Infantry. — September 18. Winning team, Company H of Salem; score, 634.

Ninth Infantry. — October 9. Winning team, Company M of Lowell; score, 599.

First Corps Cadets. — October 17. Winning team, Company A of Boston; score, 640.

Second Corps Cadets. — October 13. Winning team, Company B of Salem; score, 563.

Naval Brigade. — October 15. Winning team, Company H of Springfield; score, 599.

First Squadron Cavalry. — September 17. Winning team, Troop D of Roxbury; score, 576.

In addition to the regimental and corps competitions, a new match was added this year, — a competition between the winning teams of each organization in the above matches. Nine teams entered this match, viz.: —

	200 Yards.	300 Yards.	500 Yards.	Total.
Company H, Eighth Regiment, . . .	187	205	223	615
Company B, Second Regiment, . . .	199	199	216	614
Company K, Sixth Regiment, . . .	187	204	219	610
Company A, First Corps Cadets, . . .	177	198	221	596
Headquarters, Coast Artillery Corps, . . .	173	196	223	592
Company G, Fifth Regiment, . . .	180	189	211	580
Company M, Ninth Regiment, . . .	165	182	191	538
Company B, Second Corps Cadets, . . .	169	182	174	525
Troop D, First Squadron Cavalry, . . .	165	172	166	503

There was great interest throughout the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia in this competition, and I am of opinion that it should be made an annual event. This match was held on October 31, and was won by Company H, Eighth Regiment. Weather conditions were very severe, the day being very cold, with a high wind; in consequence of this, a comparison of the scores made by the teams in this match with the ones made by the same companies in the previous matches would be of no value.

The only organizations to make returns of small arms work, according to General Orders, No. 6, A. G. O., were: —

Quartermaster General.

Coast Artillery Corps, Second, Fourth and Sixth companies.

Second Infantry, companies B, C, I and L.

Fifth Infantry, headquarters, and companies A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, K, L and M.

Sixth Infantry, companies A, B, E, H, I and K.

Eighth Infantry, headquarters, and all companies.

Ninth Infantry, companies E, G, I, K and M.

First Corps Cadets, headquarters, and all companies.

Second Corps Cadets, headquarters, and companies A, B and C.

Naval Brigade, companies E, G and I.

First Squadron Cavalry, headquarters, and troops A and D.

Ordnance Department.