

THE HISTORY OF ST. KILDA

VOLUME II.

CHAPTER XX.

Volunteer Movement in St. Kilda—First Meeting of Residents, 1859—St Kilda Volunteer Company Formed—Town Councillors Alleged Designs, Want Officerships -- Indignant Denials — Major-General McArthur Inspects Volunteers—Rifle Butts and Civilians' Dangers— Royal Victoria Artillery Company Recruited at St. Kilda—Lieut. Colonel Acland Anderson, Commander—A Field Battery, 1860—Some Remarkable Shooting—Major, now General, F. G. Hughes—H. M. Knox—A Military Dinner—Review of Troops, Point Ormond —A Sham Fight—A Real Fight—Orderly, Rooms, Chapel Street, 1865— Destruction of Tea Tree by Military—Major Sargood Remonstrated With—Vandalism Condemned— Replanting—Elwood Rifle Butts, and Park Street Reserve—The Final Roll Call.

The military volunteer movement was started in Victoria, in the year 1854, and it was the outcome of a Government Act, authorising the raising of volunteer corps. The reason for doing so, was the state of war, which prevailed between Britain and Russia. St. Kilda was not wanting in residents, who had the martial spirit of their race, and we presume that some of the keenest of them found their way to service in the Victoria Volunteer Artillery Corps, commanded by Lieut. Colonel Anderson, or in the Victorian Yeomanry Corps, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Ross. At a later date, these parent corps were reinforced by suburban units, or companies, that took the name of their districts. The volunteer movement, as a local unit, in St. Kilda, came into being in the year 1859 in this way. The Chairman of the Municipality, the Hon. Alexander Fraser M.L.C., received in July, a memorial, from Messrs. William

Nicholson, Bligh, Edward Sydes, a Writer to the Signet, Benjamin Cowderoy, Foxton, Wharton, Caple, and Dr. Van Hemert, a group described as helping to form the company, that made up "the most influential residents" of the municipality. Chairman Fraser gave the memorial publicity, by reading it aloud to the councillors of St. Kilda. These influential residents asked the Chairman to call a public meeting, "for the purpose of forming a rifle corps, and also, for the purpose of originating such measures, as may be deemed necessary to aid in protecting the colony from foreign aggression." Two purposes in fact disclosed in the one request, and both of them patriotic. The Chairman answered the prayers of eight memorialists, as in duty bound, since a real Highlander could do no less, by calling a meeting, to be held in the Court House, corner of Barkly and Grey Streets, on the following Monday. The Court House was a plain brick oblong room, with three or four steps leading to the court door. Some small offices were incorporated in the hall, or room, where Justice sat blindfolded. The Court would not hold many more people, than the number that could squeeze at a pinch, into the bar of the hotel, opposite, named "The Hare and Hounds Hotel;" one of the early historical hotels of St. Kilda, that followed the old English custom of having a sign showing, explanatory of its name. A picture was painted on the hotel's side wall, whereon was represented hounds, coursing a hare. It was, we think, the second hotel to be distinguished by a mention in Council minutes, March 24, 1857. While the martial crowd is assembling in front of the hotel, and Court House, we recall that the occasion of the reference to the hotel was when Councillor Thomas Hale moved, as one of the first works to be done, by the newly constituted Council "that the Surveyor, when appointed, be requested to make a survey of the Punt Road, with a view to its formation from the Junction Hotel, to the Hare and Hounds Hotel."

The Argus newspaper, reporting the meeting of intending volunteers says, "The public meeting held at St. Kilda yesterday evening, for the purpose of forming a rifle corps, was a great success. The Court House, where the meeting had been called for, was found to be too small for the purpose, and an adjournment was made to the theatre adjoining the Royal Hotel, where upwards of 500 people were specially congregated. Several resolutions were carried, amidst loud applause, and before the

close of the meeting, a large number of persons, who were present, had volunteered to form portion of the rifle corps. It was further resolved, that a committee should be appointed to take steps to increase the numbers, and to make by-laws for the regulations of the corps.

The chairman of the meeting was the Chairman of the Municipality. On the platform in Mooney's large room, variously called concert room and theatre, sitting alongside Fraser from Inverness, who made a shrewd chairman, were Lieut. Colonel Ross, Captain Butler Stoney, Captain Layard, Dr. Van Hemert, Dr. Spicer, Councillor B. Cowderoy, Messrs. W. H. Tuckett, Bligh, R. Nash, Down, H. Hart, J. Musson, O'Connor, McNaughton, J. M. Thomas, and others. The Town Clerk, Mr. G. E. Bradshaw, read the requisition of the meeting. Much warlike talk ensued. Benjamin Cowderoy essayed to give an account of the European question, but those present grew tired of his speech, and showed their impatience. One man described as "a working man," named William Calders, said he would enlist if he were paid to do so. The Government, he said, should place a tax on incomes, and pay men, working men who were hardy, and able to stand fatigue to fight. Another "working man" named Wall, supported what Calders had said, and added there were men in the room, who had fought in the Crimean War, and they wanted to be paid to fight.

Dr. Van Hemert moved:

"That considering the warlike character of the intelligence brought from England, by the last mail, and the unprotected state of the Colony, in the event of Great Britain being involved in war, this meeting is of the opinion that measures for its complete defence should be immediately adopted."

The motion was carried. One speaker said that, in the event of the British fleet, not arriving in time to protect Victoria, Victoria would have to rely upon itself. In that event they could send their gold away by American ships, and if the enemy interfered with these ships the fleet of America would deal with the pirates. One man said it was absurd to think that an enemy would land at Brighton, except in the circumstances of wanting a cabbage after his long voyage. He would come further up the bay. Another man said he had gone to Queenscliff, at his own expense, and he had formulated a plan of floating batteries that

would stop any of the enemy's ships entering the Port Phillip Heads. That would-be-saviour of Victoria, was, we regret to say, howled down. Another speaker said, "the meeting was all wrong." They had gone the wrong way to work. They should have settled first how much a man's widow was to receive. The speakers were quite serious, though a perusal of the remarks to-day, seems to suggest that the speakers were indulging in a little banter.

Councillor Cowderoy moved :

"That as one means of local defence this meeting is of opinion that a Rifle Corps, for the municipal district, be now formed, and that it be entitled the St. Kilda Company of the Victoria Metropolitan Volunteer Rifle Corps." This motion was carried.

Then came upon the scene Captain Butler Stoney, no mere amateur this man, but one who had smelt gunpowder, but let him speak of himself. The gallant captain told those present, in whose breasts were sprouting the seeds of military service, that he had seen war in all its aspects, and that he had served the Colors for twenty-three years. Such knowledge that he had acquired, and no one in that peaceful theatre of Mooney's hotel, doubted for a moment that the Captain knew of what he spoke, he placed at their service, and moreover he expressed his willingness to give up his time to turn them all into an awkward squad, and to pass them on transformed beyond that stage of drill, into the enviable position of the smartest rifle corps around Melbourne. Obviously, if the gallant Captain's twenty-three years with the Colors meant anything, it foreshadowed on his own promises, that he was a good drill sergeant, as well as an "officer and a gentleman." The trouble that arose was, according to the allegations, or slanders of the future rank and file of riflemen, that all the gentlemen wanted to be officers. Some newspaper correspondence took place owing to an allegation, "that several of the town councillors of St. Kilda were confidently looking forward to superior positions, in the force about to be established in St. Kilda, their claims being founded on their positions as councillors." Councillor Thomas Hale wrote in reply denying there was any truth in the statement. The councillors, he asserted, only desired to rank as full privates. If any councillors had sufficient merit they were entitled to the positions they could fill, irrespective of their office of councillorship. The

Council, at the time, consisted of the chairman, the Hon. A. Fraser, M.L.C., T. Hale, B. Cowderoy, H. Tullett, J. Mooney, F. Spicer, W. H. Cropper.

Considerable enthusiasm was shown by the promoters of the proposed corps, but not much was done, at first, in the way of progress. The meetings were opportunities to air bellicose sentiments, and to warn the enemy to beware how he trod on the British lion's tail, if he did not want the young sea lions of St. Kilda to roar at, and then to devour him. To push the project onwards, a meeting was called, to be held in the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute, now the Athenaeum Library and Theatre, Collins Street. The advertisement calling the meeting is interesting, on account the names of twenty prominent townsmen of St. Kilda, that were attached to it. The advertisement reads :-

"RIFLE CLUB FOR ST. KILDA.

"A meeting of persons, favourable to the formation of a rifle club, at St. Kilda (by way of supplement to the Volunteer Corps about to be established there) will be held this day, Saturday, July 23, 1859, at the Mechanics' Institute, Melbourne, at 12 o'clock noon.

"The distinctive features which will be submitted for adoption are :—

"1. Meetings for practice at hours convenient to business men (to be previously agreed upon), and under instructors of their own choosing.

"2. A simple, though uniform, civilian's suit, such as may without singularity be worn if desired, during ordinary business hours.

"3. Rules of the club's own framing, and including, the right of joining, and retiring at any time.

"4. The avoidance of all military discipline, or display, as unnecessary, except in the case of actual hostilities.

"The attendance of those favourable to the formation of such a club is particularly requested.

T. T. Beckett	Thomas Hamilton
Everett Bardwell	George Mackay
J. W. Brooke	George Macredie
Robert Caldwell	James Rattray
H. J. Chambers	J. Wilberforce Stephen
B. Cowderoy	E. Sandford
Edwin Fowler	J. Sutherland

W. C. Greville	M. W. Taylor
Alexander J. Gibb	W. M. Tennent
Robert Gill	T. Hamlet Taylor"

The meeting was not a success, due, it was said, to the mistake made in selecting a Saturday for holding it. Not half the persons whose names were attached to the advertisement, attended the meeting. Robert Caldwell was in the chair, and he adjourned the meeting until the following Tuesday, when a committee was appointed to draw up rules, and regulations, to govern the working of the corps. The committee consisted of, Messrs. Alexander Fraser junior, Captain Layard, Messrs. Richard Nash, H. Tullett, T. Hale, W. Sydney Smith, James Anderson, J. Mooney, and Thomas. Captain Butler Stoney's name was mentioned, but withdrawn, owing to an explanation that his commanding officer had forbidden him to have anything to do with the volunteer corps. Three of the committee men were councillors of St. Kilda, Messrs. Mooney, Hale and Tullett, while W. Sydney Smith was the Council's engineer. The volunteers enrolled numbered 56. The color of the uniform, selected for the corps, was that known as "Bombay blue." The standard height of the men was fixed at five feet five inches, and each man had, at least, to be eighteen years of age. Enrolments for the corps were taken at the Court of Petty Sessions on Wednesdays, and Saturdays, from three to six o'clock in the afternoon. The Deputy Adjutant General attended at the St. Kilda Court House on the Monday following, to enroll the men, and to administer the oath of loyalty to them as members of the new corps.

In September, 1859, the following complimentary paragraph concerning the rifle corps, appeared in The Argus newspaper:—

"The St. Kilda Rifle Corps is assuming a shape, both in regard to numbers, and efficiency very promising, and it bids far to be one of the crack corps in the Colony. A few days since Major-General Macarthur, C.B., Commander of the Forces in the Australian Colonies, was on the ground at the usual seven o'clock morning drill, and witnessed the company go through the various evolutions, under the able instructions of Colonel Pitt, assisted by Sergeant Price. The Major-General expressed his entire approbation at the rapid advancement the members of the corps had acquired since its enrolment."

Numbers of residents in St. Kilda were not so well pleased with the way some of the members sought to obtain proficiency in the use of the rifle. They wrote to the newspapers, saying that the St. Kilda Beach, along as far as Elwood, was not safe to walk upon, on account of bullets that came whistling over their heads. One writer said there were three butts, apparently between St. Kilda, and Elwood. The reply, on behalf of the corps, was that the dangers were exaggerated. One correspondent ended a long letter by saying that, "If the Government declined going to the expense of a running deer, I protest against (the volunteers) continuing to use human beings as a substitute, even though they be, as a volunteer coolly wrote some time ago 'only butcher boys'. It is reported on good grounds, that two persons have been hit, and the matter hushed up. To all remonstrances they refer us to the Colonel—, as if we cared for their colonel. Would he pay the surgeon's bill I should like to know." The letter was signed "Elwoodian." Evidently the writer assumed that there would be a surgeon's bill to pay, and not an undertaker's, so the shooting was not quite as deadly as it might have been. St. Kilda was so filled with martial spirit, at this time, that such letters did not stay the march of the St. Kilda volunteers, though, no doubt, steps were taken to stop this promiscuous shooting, from the cover of tea tree, across the line of the beach.

Closer settlement along the beach caused the authorities to close the Rifle Ranges, and the St. Kilda Battery's fortifications were demolished. The rifle ranges were moved further south along the beach, and the Elwood Rifle Range, bounded by St. Kilda Street on the east, was established in circumstances described later in this chapter. A few years elapsed and the Elwood range was closed. Where once bullets whistled through the air, nothing now more deadly flies than golfing balls, for the old range is, more or less, a portion of the Elsternwick golf links, since golfers play there at times. The meadow land is the playground of hundreds of skylarks, that on fine mornings may be heard carolling in the sky by the bathers from the Elwood Life Saving Club. The Club's building is on the site where the targets were placed. A rifle range was built on the West Beach, and near the range was a station on the St. Kilda railway line known as the "Butts Station." In the seventies building operations caused the authorities to dismantle the range; but it was

not abolished without many protests on behalf of the riflemen.

In front of the Junction Hotel, the St. Kilda Rifle Corps held its first drill, under the instruction of Lieut. Powell of the Collingwood Company. A few days afterwards the Corps was addressed by Major J. Hodgson, who said it was stated that the corps was composed more of boys than men, who were joining the corps because it gave them the opportunity of wearing silver braid. The "boys" were mostly men, according to the gallant major, and "men with families, who had something to defend." Growing warm, the major waxed almost as eloquent as a recruiting sergeant of the British Army. "If these shores were attacked," declared the major, "500 tolerable trained volunteers, extended along St. Kilda Beach, could keep off an enemy, whereas a company of regulars (60 strong) could not. The sum of £6,000 was to be spent upon the formation of rifle corps, and he looked upon it as a great honor to be allowed to drill the St. Kilda Rifle Corps."

Major Hodgson was not a St. Kilda resident. He resided at Studley Park, and his city address was the Melbourne Club. He held the responsible position of the Chairman of Committees in Parliament House. Because he belonged to another suburb, Major Hodgson mentioned the honor he felt in addressing the St. Kilda volunteers. In extolling the possible future prowess of the St. Kilda volunteers, the Major was probably having a sly shot at the 40th Regiment. The "regulars" rightly regarded the volunteers as amateurs in warfare, and smiled at them, hence the little sally. Evidence of this regimental aloofness was disclosed in the curt order given to the obliging Captain Butler Stoney, that he was to have "nothing to do with the St. Kilda Volunteers." The officers of the 40th Regiment, 2nd Somersetshire, may have felt the burden of their greatness, in the presence of colonists, mostly poor emigrants seeking places, and fortunes, but the rank and file, applefaced, good-natured, laughing Tommies as a corporate type were brothers to the emigrants, and popular, and specially were they popular with their sisters, whether those sisters were born in England, Scotland or Ireland. When the regimental band played, and it played at St. Kilda on one or two occasions, at archery, and other fetes, the young women emigrants always followed the call of the band. It was said that when the regimental band cheered the troops of the 40th regiment, embarking for China, with the pathetic tune of

"The Girl I Left Behind Me," that the young emigrant girls consoled themselves with the volunteers; who all had smart uniforms, though there was no volunteer uniform so smart as the silver piped one of the St. Kilda. Volunteer Riflemen, who had an orderly room built for them, on the Esplanade, next to Mooney's Royal Hotel.

The St. Kilda Volunteer Rifle Corps was recruited in July, and in the following month, August, 1859, a company of the Royal Victoria Artillery was raised in St. Kilda, under the title of the St. Kilda Company of the Royal Victoria Artillery Volunteer Regiment. The Acting Deputy Adjutant General, Captain D. Pitt took the oath of allegiance to Queen, and country, from the members of the whole company at Mooney's Royal Hotel, the Esplanade, on Friday, August 19. Captain Pitt and Colonel Pasley, expressed their "great satisfaction that the company had been formed, and they had no doubt that it would be a decided success."

Captain Pitt belonged to the Imperial Forces, and was attached to the 80th Regiment, and he filled the office of Acting Deputy Adjutant General, because of the sudden death of a popular officer, Lieut. Colonel J. M. B. Neill, H.P. Deputy Adjutant General The St Kilda arm of the Royal Victoria Volunteer Artillery Regiment was commanded by Lieut. Colonel William Acland Anderson, who was the son of Lieut. Colonel Joseph Anderson, C.B.K.H., the old Peninsular officer, who was the friend of the Aclands (the St. Kilda Dyke Aclands).

In the year 1860, at St. Kilda, a field battery of 32 pound guns, was formed, and the battery's headquarters were in the Orderly Room, Chapel Street, St Kilda. The first captain of the battery was James McCulloch (afterwards Sir James McCulloch, K.C.M.G.). He was succeeded in his command by James Balfour (afterwards an M.L.C.), and he, in turn, was followed by Frederick T. Sargood (afterwards Sir Frederick Sargood, K.C.M.G., M.L.C., and a Minister of Defence and Education *in* Victoria).

Under Captain Sargood's command, it was decided to erect fortifications on the sea shore, and the site chosen, as shown on a map of the sixties, was north of the Bluff The work was commenced under presumed war conditions. The gunners hurried forward with the work, camping on the beach at night,

until the fortifications were finished. Earth works were thrown up, gabions erected, and sandbags placed in position.

Before the Battery possessed its Whitworth guns, some remarkable shooting performances took place in connection with the muzzle loading cannons. Once, when the gunners were firing at a target, moored in the sea beyond the Red Bluff, something went wrong. A cannon suddenly swung on its bearings, and when its muzzle was pointing inland, the charge in the gun exploded, sending a cannon ball against the wall of a house occupied by the late Douglas Dare, in Acland Street. The ball glanced off the wall, and continued its erratic flight until it fell through the roof of a washhouse into a copper, at the residence of the late Councillor S. P. Lord. This unexpected visitor so amused Lord that he placed the ball under a glass shade. The cannon was judged, from its extraordinary behaviour, to be the father of all the "Irish guns that shot round the corners."

St. Kilda seemed fated to be saluted by cannon balls. During big gun practice on a warship in the Bay, a wandering cannon ball went clean through a workshop at the residence of Mr. Stone, an organ builder on the West Beach of St. Kilda. He was one of the first residents in that portion of St. Kilda, and the father of the late Dr. Clara Stone. The cannon ball finally struck the George Hotel in Fitzroy Street, and there its career was stopped for the day.

The small arms supplied to the St. Kilda volunteers were not any better than the cannons allotted to the battery. The rifles were muzzle loaders of an inferior class, and worn out. They were the rejects of the British Army stores. The shooting made with them was often fearful as well as unexpected. On one occasion a Lieutenant, firing at the target, across the Elwood Swamp, killed a horse about one hundred yards to the right of the target, and the rifle, and not the Lieutenant, who was an expert marksman, was blamed.

A short rifle range was placed between Shakespeare Grove, and Blessington Street, and there was a nine hundred yards range from the corner of Southey Street, and Mitford Street across Elwood Swamp. An elevated pathway was made through the swamp leading to the target.

The St. Kilda Battery was the school in which many efficient artillery men were turned out, notably Major F. G.

Hughes, an ex-Mayor of St. Kilda, who was afterwards to "do his bit" in the Great War. He joined the battery as a gunner in 1875. He, it was, who went to England in 1885, in charge of the Rupertswood Battery, which represented Australia at Islington. This Battery won every event it entered, and it was the admiration of the British Army. Major Hughes, as its commander, attracted the notice of Queen Victoria. He was four times presented to Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, and was complimented by her and also given her autographed photograph. He was A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor-General, and Lieut-Colonel, commanding the Seventh Light Horse Brigade. Another early member of the Artillery Battery, was the late H. M. Knox, who was, for many years, rate collector and municipal valuer of St. Kilda. He was secretary of the modern Rifle Club, which owed much of its success to Knox's enthusiasm.

Such pleasant social amenities as first class suppers were quite in the line of fire of the gallant volunteers. These gatherings were extolled by the newspapers, as a means to cementing fast friendships, between brothers-in-arms in the different branches of the army engaged in perfecting themselves in the arts of war. St. Kilda and Albert Park were the training grounds of the metropolitan area for the volunteers, and as the publicans of St. Kilda, and their cooks, were of the best, it followed that the volunteers looked to their efforts to appease them after spending arduous days in fighting an imaginary enemy. One such supper, typical of them as a whole, took place on Tuesday, January 9, 1861, when the St. Kilda Company of the Royal Victoria Artillery Regiment gave a supper to which were invited, the commanding officers of the different branches of the service, and a few of the 1st and 2nd St. Kilda Rifles. Among the guests present, at the supper, which took place at the Terminus Hotel, Fitzroy Street, and was presided over by Mr. Everett Bardwell, Mr. Cope acting as vice-chairman, were Lieut. Colonel Ross, Royal Yeomanry Cavalry, Major A. K. Smith of the Artillery, Captain R. Nash of the 1st St. Kilda Rifle, Captain Snee, the adjutant of the Artillery, and others. Lieut. Colonel Anderson was too unwell to attend, being overcome by the great heat. He had ridden that day 40 miles from the country for the express purpose of attending the supper. No word is given of the state of the gallant colonel's horse. Mi. Heynemann was the landlord of the Terminus Hotel. His supper

satisfied the 50 officers, and gentlemen, who sat down to it. A contemporary report states, "The convivialities were prolonged until a late hour in the morning, and the sun was not far below the horizon when the company separated."

What was considered at the time to be the finest review of troops ever held in Victoria took place at Point Ormond on July 1, 1862, in commemoration of the separation of the Port Phillip District from New South Wales in 1851. Twenty thousand persons were estimated to have been present, the day being a perfect one for such a martial display. Point Ormond was attacked by a landing party from the steam sloop of war, "Victoria," bearing the Austrian flag. She was assisted in the assault upon the land forces by the steamer "Lioness." The "Victoria" steamed within 300 yards of the shore, and fired several guns to cover the landing of her troops. They effected a landing on Elwood Beach; another party was landed on the north side of the Point Ormond. The latter, however, were quickly dislodged, for a company of Melbourne Rifles, hurrying from the Railway station to the review, met the invaders, and opened a sharp fire upon them. The "Victoria" shelled the Rifles, but they displayed the utmost valor, and refused to take the shell fire seriously.

In the meantime the engineers of the land forces had constructed a bridge over the Elster Creek. With conspicuous gallantry, the Collingwood Rifles swarmed across the bridge, to repel the enemy on the south of the Bluff. The spectators greeted the brave rush of the Collingwood Rifles with loud cheers. Lieut. Colonel Anderson led the company on its desperate, and deathless charge. The Geelong, South Yarra, Hawthorn, Kew, Richmond and St. Kilda Rifles at the same time fired quick volleys into the ranks of the invaders. The invaders took to their boats, and rowed for the "Lioness" and "Victoria," the shore party, led off by the St. Kilda battery of 32 pounders, fired enough blank ammunition after the retreating boats to frighten those on board the "Victoria." When the troops boarded her, she fired a shot or two, and steamed across to Williamstown. There were 1,755 volunteers engaged in the sham fight; 981 volunteers belonged to Melbourne and the suburbs, 104 to Geelong, 412 artillery men, 30 engineers, 99 cavalymen, and 30 engineers.

Point Ormond, or the Red Bluff, will not again be the scene of such a desperate fight. The volunteers have gone, and what would have seemed improbable to the 20,000 spectators, the sea head of the Red Bluff, and much more of the point, has been quarried away, and run on small contractors' trucks, rail road, inland to fill up the Elwood Swamp, the site of which is now covered by houses. From a lithographical copy of the orders without date, issued to officers on another occasion of a volunteer sham fight, we learn that the commanding officers of the attack were Captain Nash, 1st St. Kilda Rifles; Captain Radcliffe, Carlton Rifles. Commanding officers of the defence, Captain Ross, Artillery, Lieut. Smith, Engineers. The sketch plan of directions shows "swamp," "swamp and scrub," "scrub" and a "hollow road," none of which landmarks may be found to-day. The belts of tea tree shown on the plan occupy a considerable space on the plan. We gather from the key to "Plan of Attack and Defence," that towards the end of the battle the defenders issue "from the cover of the swampy ground," a masked battery opens fire, and the "B's," the attackers, meet "a sharp fusilade," after which they are no longer interested in the proceedings taking a place at the Point Ormond Battle to capture a magazine from a party of engineers, supported by volunteers. Such little affairs, "small wars," were not infrequent at Point Ormond. At Point Ormond there were entrenchments, sites for batteries, and other military engineering devices. The tents of the artillery men, and of the volunteers, were often to be seen along the Elwood shore line.

Volunteers were subjected to a great deal of good humored chaff from half scoffing outsiders, who professed to see something of the mock heroic in the movement. Some color of reason was given to the chaff of these ill-mannered civilians, owing to the fact that the soldiering was taken so seriously by the volunteers, engaged in the military duties when "playing at soldiers." As sometimes happens, in such cases, offenders against good taste arise, and they carry their jokes too far until they become no longer jokes but impertinences. It happened so at St. Kilda on one occasion. The scene took place at midnight, on the St. Kilda beach, and the impertinence then offered to the volunteers was the subject of a case, heard before the St. Kilda Court Bench, on January 26, 1864. The case created extraordinary interest in St. Kilda, as all except the complainant,

engaged in the case, were "influential residents" of St. Kilda, and leaders of the legal bar. The defendant was DeCoursey Ireland, son of the Hon. R. D. Ireland. He was charged with having been guilty of an assault, and with interfering with volunteers in the execution of their duty. Mr. Billing appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Aspinall conducted the defence. The court was crowded, and there was an overflow of people outside the court buildings. Many witnesses were examined. The complainant, Joseph F. Boyd, sergeant of the St. Kilda Volunteer Artillery, said he was sergeant of the guard at the volunteer encampment. From ten o'clock, till nearly midnight, he suffered annoyance from a number of young men, making a noise about the guard tent. At midnight, he heard an alarm call, "Sergeant Boyd, turn out the Guard !" an order he obeyed. His action was met with shouts of laughter. He had received orders to keep the bridge leading into the encampment, clear from strangers. The defendant refused to leave the bridge when ordered to do so. When attempts were made to enforce the order, the defendant struck him, and a fight took place, in which defendant's friends tried to assist him. The fight, and noise it occasioned, disturbed the whole camp, the commandant, Captain Balfour, and everyone else turned out. The camp flagstaff and flag were hurled from one side of the creek to the other. Eventually, the defendant was overpowered, and he was marched to the guard tent, a prisoner under arrest. He was detained in the tent until daybreak, when he was told to quit the camp, which he did, losing no time in so doing.

The defence? There was practically none offered. The excuse was made of an overflow of the spirits of youth combined with the spirits of malt. A fight had taken place at midnight, wherein a youth received a thrashing, and a rough manhandling passage to a military guard tent. The chairman of the Bench, Councillor Cowderoy, said the Justices regretted that the complaint had been made, and that the defendant had been brought into court. It was clear that the defendant had been severely punished, he had been arrested also, and detained for the night, in a guard tent. It was extremely unlikely, after the experience he had gone through, that the defendant would again visit a volunteer encampment at midnight. The case against the defendant was dismissed.

Under the heading "Tenders" in The Argus newspaper, dated June 5, 1865, the following advertisement appeared :—

"Tenders are required for erecting an orderly room for the St. Kilda Volunteer Royal Artillery Company, near Chapel Street Railway Station. Drawings and specifications to be seen at the office of Reed & Barnes, architects of Elizabeth Street."

The present railway station, "Windsor," was at first known as "Chapel Street Railway Station." The St. Kilda Volunteer Royal Artillery Company held a meeting on June 14, at the Court House, St. Kilda, for the purpose of considering the tenders received, and to decide upon the proposal to erect an orderly room. Captain Balfour presided over the meeting. He informed those present, that the Government had granted a site for the proposed building in Chapel Street, near to All Saints' Church. The Government had made a gift of the materials wherewith to build the orderly room, the materials coming from the old barracks in Spencer Street, which had been demolished. An examination of the tenders received for building the orderly room, showed that the four lowest tenders ranged from £333 to £349 10/, Lieut. Sargood laid the plans before the members of the Artillery Company, and also explained the financial position. The proposed building was to contain a drill room 80 x 40. On each side of that room were to be gun sheds, and in the rear of the building, apartments for the drill instructor. The plans represented, if carried out, an expenditure of about £750. Their advantages were, that the Company had the land whereon to build, and the materials wherewith to build. These assets, and the money they had in hand, and more money to come from the Government, with the prospect of recruits becoming "effectuals," say altogether about £120, would mean their assets were about £500 of the £750 required. That would leave £250 to be raised. He proposed to raise that sum by 5/- debentures, to be issued to members of the Company. The sum of 2/6 was to be paid on allotment, and 2/6 within a month. The debentures were to bear ten per cent. interest. If it was necessary, he would subscribe for an equal number of debentures taken up by the Company. The members entered into the spirit of the project. In a few minutes 803 debentures were taken up, three debentures in excess of the number required. No time was lost in building the Orderly Room.

The Orderly Room of the St. Kilda Artillery was visited in September, 1868, by the Governor, Sir Henry Manners Sutton, K.C.B., and Major General Sir Trevor Chute, K.C.B., the officer commanding the Australian Military Forces. The drill room was considered to be the handsomest in the metropolis. At that date the cost of its construction had been £1,559. Of that sum, only £176 had been received from Government allowances, but £779 had come from private sources. A debt of £605 rested on the building. The parade ground was 220 feet square, well lighted with gas. The corps had provided themselves with unusually ample means of instruction. Besides erecting a two gun 32 pounder battery, and long and short range butts, they had two Whitworth 3 pounder field guns, and were expecting four more from England. They also had a very complete gymnasium. The parade, before the Governor, included Captain F. T. Sargood, Captain W. Strachan, Lieutenant G. N. Turner, Lieutenant E. B. Hearne, Lieutenant Watson, 7 non-commissioned officers, 132 rank, and file, and 11 members of the band. Sergeant Read, and Gunners Williams, and Mann, gave a gymnastic display. The St. Kilda Artillery, at that time, consisted of 5 officers, 7 sergeants, 146 rank and file, total strength 158.

Gymnastic displays were given in the Orderly Room, and also more elaborate entertainments, called "Assaults at Arms." One display was given in the room on October 10, 1868, by the St. Kilda Royal Victoria Volunteer Company. The exhibition was in the presence of Colonel Anderson, and Lieut. Colonel Rear, and their staffs of officers, and Captain Sargood, and officers of the Battery. Fencing, and bouts with single sticks were features of these Assaults at Arms. For a time, they were very popular forms of an evening's amusement.

In 1868 the St. Kilda short range shooting butts were moved to the Elwood side of Southey Street. The work was carried out and finished under the direction of Sergeant Morton of the Engineer Corps, father of Mr. H. E. Morton, who was a municipal surveyor of the St. Kilda Council, and afterwards for the Melbourne City Council. The new butts, it was stated, were "further along the shore than the old ones, and close to the mouth of the second St. Kilda drain. No rifle shooting was allowed at the butts after the hour of 8.30 a.m., so that those who practised rifle shooting in St. Kilda had, of necessity, to be early risers.

In January, 1874, it was announced that the Government had permanently reserved, and vested in the Board of Land and

Works, 54 acres, more or less, county of Bourke, borough of St. Kilda, at Elwood, commencing at the point where the north, boundary of the reserve for the Rifle Ranges abuts on the Ormond Beach, bounded thence by the said reserve, bearing east to the one-chain road, which forms the south-west boundary of suburban allotments 9 to 20, thence by that road, bearing north westerly, and by the prolongation of Barkly Street, bearing north to the creek, forming the southern boundary of the abattoirs site, thence by that creek to Ormond Beach, and thence by that beach south easterly to the commencing point.

The St. Kilda Artillery Corps had been for some time using its rifle butts, on sufferance, as the line of the ranges crossed some private ground. It was decided (1874) that new butts should be erected further along the shore towards Brighton. In order to save the funds of the Corps, the members volunteered to do the work themselves. A commencement was made on January 23, when sixty members of the Corps went under the command of Major Sargood, and began the formation of the 300 yards range butts. On the following Monday, Colonel Anderson, wishing to assist in the work, sent to the site fifty men belonging to the Garrison Corps, who worked at the erection of the butts from 2 o'clock till 7 p.m. When it was found there were not enough tools for each company of men, the Garrison Corps was marched back to the Barracks. The St. Kilda Borough Surveyor reported to the Council on February 9, 1874, that Major Sargood had cut down a clump of tea-tree, for the purpose of constructing the rifle butts, on the northern side of the Elsternwick swamp. Having heard that the Major contemplated cutting down more tea-tree on the southern side, he had written to him on the subject. The Mayor replied that his men only cut down dead tea-tree, it was Colonel Anderson's men who cut down the living tea-tree, as they were anxious to assist in the construction of the new butts. Councillor Tullett thought that it would be a proper action to write to the Major, a very strong letter, calling upon him to replace by young trees quite as much of the scrub as was cut down. Until the Major did so, the Major would not be doing his duty. Since the scrub had been destroyed, the place had *become* quite a desert, whereas he well remembered the time when it was a nice green sward. Other councillors agreed with the remarks made by Councillor Tullett, and it was decided to write a letter to Major Sargood, expressive of regret at the destruction

of the scrub, and to suggest that he replace the same with some young trees. Whether Major Sargood, afterwards the Hon. Sir Frederick T. Sargood, K.C.M.G., M.L.C., and Lieut. Col., winner of the first prize at the first meeting for rifle shooting, held in Victoria, under the auspices of the Caledonian Society, did so replace by young plants the matured tea-tree which had been cut down we do not know, but being the man he was, if he realised the enormity of the vandalism done, by the military, to the groves, he probably did as he was asked to do. The attempt to restore the trees, on the beach land, by new growths must have been a failure since the Elwood Beach has not yet recovered from the assault made by the military upon its tea-trees. Such trees are more easily destroyed on beaches than young ones may be grown to replace them. Nature in the kindly art of tea-tree growth is a better gardener than man. The wild self-sown tea tree has a hardiness of growth that the plantation tea-tree is very slow in acquiring. We can suffer more readily the disappearance of the volunteer movement than we can withhold our regrets for the untimely disappearance of those "groves of tea-tree" marked as existing on the early maps of Elwood.

The military was by no means the first offender, nor the last, to be engaged in cutting down tea-trees. It was stated in *The Argus*, August 31, 1859, that in broad daylight persons may be seen destroying the charming little belt of trees near the beach towards the Red Bluff by chopping the trees down and carting them away in a dray. "Not many years before," continues the writer of the complaint, "the space between St. Kilda, and Sandridge, facing the sea, was one beautiful thicket of trees, but what remains now?" Such contemporary complaints show that, before the year 1859, the beaches were being stripped of their tea-tree groves by residents wanting cheap firewood.

The task of attempting to restore the beach lands, so far as the growth of tea-tree was involved at Elwood, into something resembling their pristine condition, was left to devolve on a modern St. Kilda Council. On April 12, 1926, the St. Kilda Council approved of a recommendation made by its Parks and Gardens' Committee that "to preserve the existing tea-tree, and to hasten new growth at Elwood Park, the triangular reserve, immediately north-west of Bluff Road, and Ormond Esplanade be enclosed with a close picket fence, and the tea-tree thereon trimmed up, and grass sown in the enclosure; also that the

north-west end of the large reserve, from Bendigo Avenue towards Bluff Road be similarly treated. Further that the new planting of tea-tree be carried over the balance of the reserve."

The Victorian volunteer force was disbanded in January, 1884. The Government issued a memorandum, thanking the officers, the non-commissioned officers, and the rank, and file, of the volunteer force, for their services. The St. Kilda Artillery held its last muster—its final roll call—at the Orderly Room, Chapel Street, Captain Hacker, commanding the fine body of men for the last time. The men fell in on parade. Captain Hacker read the order from Lieut. Colonel Sargood, disbanding the battery. He tendered his thanks to officers, non-commissioned officers, and gunners, and so ended the honorable career of the St. Kilda Artillery. The new Militia Infantry Force, for the District, started by enlistments, at the Southern Rifle Orderly Room, in Punt Road, on February 13, 1884. The first enrollment showed that eighteen members of the St. Kilda Artillery had joined the new military organisation, so the martial spirit of the old battery lived on, and still does so. The drill room is now officially known as No. 7 Drill Room 2nd and 4th A.F.A. Brigade.

The Defence Department, at the request of the St. Kilda Council and the Brighton Council, and the Yacht Clubs closed the Elwood butts against Rifle Clubs at the end of June 1907. The Elwood rifle range was 500 yards maximum and .303 rifles were used. For a while, after the range was closed, cadets, firing with Francotte rifles that carried a bullet the distance of 200 yards were permitted to use the range. Then miniature ranges up to 50 yards came into vogue, and the old butts were finally dismantled.