

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

These are at present as shown in the table below :—

Nature of Forces.	Establishment. (See Remarks.)		Term of Service Enlisted for.	Remarks.
	Officers.	Warrant Officers, Non-Com. Officers, and Men.		
I. Staff S.A. Forces	8	4	—	
II. Permanent Military Force	2	45	5 years	
III. { Active Militia.. Acting Militia Reserve... }	70	850	3 years	<p>This is the normal peace establishment, as laid down by the Act, of the Active Militia, but its Reserve may be increased. At present, owing to large reductions in 1885, this force is under its establishment.</p> <p>By proclamation the establishment may, in case of necessity, be increased to 1,500 men.</p> <p>No establishment is laid down for this force, which, if required, in time of emergency would be raised by ballot.</p> <p>No establishment is laid down for this force. The strength shown is the approximate strength at present.</p>
	5	100		
IV. Reserve Militia..	—	—	{ As may be proclaimed	
V. Volunteer Force.	77	1,400	{ To give 3 months' notice of wish to resign	
Grand total	162	2,399		

The origin and history of these forces is shortly as follows :—

I. Permanent Military Force.—S.A. Artillery.

In 1878 an Act was passed (amended in 1880) authorising the formation of a standing (or permanent) Military Force of 4 officers and 130 men.

This Act was not carried out until 1882, when a force of one officer and twenty men (Garrison Artillery) was raised under the Act.

This force was increased in 1885 to two officers and fifty men, under the command of Major Gordon (late Royal Artillery), and was slightly reduced to its present strength in 1886.

II. Active Militia and Active Militia Reserve.

The first organisation for a force of this nature dates from 1854, when a Militia Act was passed, empowering the Government to call a force of 2,000 men, to be balloted for from the citizens between eighteen and forty-six years of age, if sufficient volunteers were not forthcoming.

No action was ever taken under this Act.

In 1865-6 an Act was passed authorising the calling out of a body of not less than 540 nor more than 1,000 paid volunteers, this force being styled the Volunteer Military Force, at 5s. per day; also a Reserve Force of 1,000 men at the same rate.

This Act was amended in 1867, higher pay being given by it to Artillery, and a Troop of Cavalry (providing their own horses) being authorised.

No men were, however, raised under these Acts for many years.

But, in 1877, the strong warlike feelings awakened throughout the colony determined the Government of the day to take active steps towards raising definite organised local forces under the above-mentioned Acts.

Imperial officers with a small staff of drill instructors were obtained from England to organise a body of 1,000 paid volunteers, raised under the Acts of 1865-6-7. These officers were in the first place :—Colonel Downes, R.A. (now retired with the rank of Major-General), as Commandant, and Major Godwin, of the 103rd regiment, as his principal staff officer (D.A.A.G.).

Amending Acts were passed in 1881-2, allowing of a maximum of 1,500 men of this force being raised instead of only 1,000.

In 1885, Colonel Downes (now Secretary of Defence, Victoria),

having previously retired from the army with the honorary rank of Major-General, was succeeded by the present Commandant, Brigadier-General Owen, Royal Artillery.

The post of D. A. A. General has been filled up by Imperial officers (Major Fergusson, Rifle Brigade, and Major Jervois, Royal Engineers), up to last year. It is now vacant, the O. C. Permanent Force doing the work temporarily as acting D.A.A.G.

In 1886 a "Defence Forces Act" was passed (as drafted by Brigadier-General Owen), repealing all former Acts relating to the Militia, and the paid and unpaid Volunteer Forces, and consolidating and amending the law as to the same.

By this Act the paid Volunteer Force is styled by its proper title, "South Australian Militia," with its Reserve, the latter consisting of men who have already served one or more terms of three years.

If called out by proclamation for actual service, the Militia may be ordered to serve in the other colonies in case of danger, for the defence of a neighboring colony might in some cases be the most rational means of defending South Australia.

The Defence Act, 1886, aimed also, especially at the simplification and consolidation of the laws relating to this and the other forces of the colonies.

III. Reserve Militia.

Provision for a paid force of this description, to be raised by ballot, of the able-bodied men of the colony in case of great emergency, was made in 1884, by the Act above mentioned, in which such force was termed "Militia."

This Act, being in many ways obsolete and not in a form easily applicable, was repealed by the Defence Forces Act, 1886, which latter provides in a practical form for the raising by ballot of a paid Militia Reserve on proclamation either to complete the Active Militia to the strength authorised to be raised, or, in case of danger, in addition thereto in such number as may be required.

This Force is not in existence at present, but the colony has been divided by proclamation (under the Defences Act, 1886) into the necessary territorial military districts, and in case of emergency the required machinery for raising it could easily be put into operation.

IV. Volunteer Force.

This is a purely Volunteer Force, not paid except by a capitation grant for such members as make themselves efficient.

The Government supplies arms and accoutrements free, as well as a certain proportion of ammunition.

At various periods Volunteer corps of different descriptions have existed in the colony.

In 1877 they had all been merged into the "South Australian National Rifle Association," organized by an Act passed in 1878 under the control of a council, with provision for military inspection by an officer appointed for the purpose.

In 1881 and 1882 amending Acts were passed, changing the Rifle Association into a Rifle Volunteer Force, and placing it under the command of the Military Commandant.

By the "Defence Forces Act, 1886," the council ceased to exist, and the Volunteer Force as it now exists was established, being the former Rifle Volunteer Force with provisions tending to make it more complete as a military organization.

The last mentioned Act also allowed of the raising of Mounted Infantry Volunteer Corps. Four of such corps, numbering about 150 officers and men, have already been raised under this Act.

All matters simply appertaining to rifle contests and matches for this and the other forces were handed over by the Act of 1886 to a new "South Australian National Rifle Association," without any military or quasi-military functions, but somewhat on the model of the English N. R. Association and of similar associations existing in other colonies.

In the event of threatened invasion or rebellion, the Militia Force and Volunteers are liable to be called out for service, and would then be employed under the provisions of the Army Act, 1882.

The S.A.M. Forces, therefore, in addition to—

I. Head Quarter Staff, consist of—		
II. A small Permanent Garrison Artillery (S.A. Artillery) of	Officers.	Men.
	2	45
III. An active Militia of the following ordinary establishment*		
Cavalry (2 Troops, Lancers)	6	60
Field Artillery, 1 Battery (Eight 16 Pr. Guns)	6	75
Garrison Artillery, 1 Battery	6	120
Infantry, 2 Battalions	40	680
Medical Staff and Ambulance Corps	6	15
	64	950
With the Active Militia Reserve, 2 companies †	6	120

* This is the authorised establishment, but it is not complete at present.

† This is the establishment aimed at for the present.

IV. Reserve Militia.

No establishment laid down. To be raised, if necessary, in case of great emergency.

V. Volunteer Force.

	Officers.	Men.
Mounted Infantry (four companies)	8	120
Infantry. { One organized battalion of six companies } { Twenty-one companies organized in territorial districts. }	75	1,200
	<u>83</u>	<u>1,320</u>

The Cavalry are armed with lances and M.H. carbines.
Garrison Artillery and Infantry with M.H. rifles.

B. Defences.

The land defences of Adelaide and its ports (Port Adelaide and Glenelg) consisting of:—

Name of Fort.	Armament.	Remarks.
Glanville.....	Two 20-ton 10in. R.M.L. guns; two 64-pounder R.M.L. guns.	Earthworks, with bricks, &c.
Largs	Two 12-ton 9in. R.M.L. guns; two 80-pounder R.M.L. guns.	Masonry, revellment, &c.

A new battery is also proposed to be built in the neighborhood of Glenelg, and to be armed with powerful breech-loading ordnance of the latest description.

THE POLICE FORCE.

One of the earliest acts of the first Legislative Council of this colony was to pass an Ordinance which authorised the formation of a Police Force. This measure was agreed to in the year 1839, and it was then that the force was first put on a proper basis in this colony.

The colony is divided into six divisions—The Metropolitan Division, which includes Adelaide and the suburbs; the Port Adelaide Division; the Central Division; the South-Eastern Division, which has for its head-quarters Mount Gambier; the Northern Division, which has for its Central station Clare, and which comprises the districts between Balaklava and Port Pirie and Yorke Peninsula; and the Far Northern Division, which extends from Terowie to Alice Springs, and includes what was formerly known as the Western Division. The force throughout the colony is, of course, under the control of Commissioner Peterswald, but the divisions are placed under the immediate supervision of Inspectors Hunt, Saunders, Sullivan, Besley, and Woodcock, each of whom is allotted a separate division, for the good conduct of which he is responsible to the Commissioner of Police. They are assisted in their duties by Sub-Inspectors Doyle, Shaw, Rollison, and Field. The Metropolitan and Port Divisions, from the fact of their containing the largest proportion of the population, of course, absorb the greatest number of the force, and there are stationed in them, in addition to the commissioned officers, 7 sergeants, 6 corporals, 35 troopers, and 160 foot police; in the Central Division there are 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 41 troopers, and 12 constables; in the South-Eastern Division there are 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 17 troopers, and 4 foot police; in the Northern Division 2 sergeants, 3 corporals, 29 troopers, and 17 foot police; and in the Far Northern Division 3 sergeants, 2 corporals, 55 troopers, and 13 constables. In order to preserve the proper working of the force a system of visiting has been introduced by which every station in the colony is visited once a month by the Inspector, Sub-Inspector, or one of the sergeants, with the view of drilling the men, inspecting their

quarters, and examining the books, reports of each visit having to be forwarded to the head office, where they are carefully examined. The fact which must strike the most superficial observer is the extreme disproportion of the numbers of the Police Force in this colony with those of the neighbouring provinces of Victoria and New South Wales, the mounted troopers alone in the latter colony exceeding the whole of our force by over 100 men. The population of South Australia, of course, is not so great as in those two provinces, but the exceedingly large area which has to be kept under police supervision taxes the resources of the department to the utmost, and it is only by the most strenuous exertions of the officials, and the hearty co-operation of the men, that it can exercise a control over such an extent of territory.

The Troopers.

“The duties and powers of a mounted constable differ in no respect from those of an ordinary police constable.” These are the words used in the Police Manual when dealing with the work of the trooper, but the exigences of the service have rudely set aside this rule, and have thrust upon this branch of the force duties of the most multifarious character. In the country the mounted man has to act in many instances as bailiff; he is also Crown Lands Ranger; he has to collect jury lists for the Sheriff’s Department; agricultural statistics for the Under Secretary; to co-operate with the Inspectors of Schools in seeing that all the children in the neighbourhood in which he is stationed are sent to school; to keep an eye on all cases of destitution, and communicate with the Destitute Board in reference to them; to destroy vermin, and give certificates to scalphunters; and to carry out any other special work which a paternal Government may call upon him to perform. None of these duties are allowed in the slightest way to interfere with his ordinary police work. When in charge of a station he has to patrol the country in the neighbourhood of his post, and keep a daily journal of all transactions; he has to make himself acquainted with the people and the physical character of the district, and keep a watch over suspicious persons, besides marking down a description of their appearance; his horses must not be neglected, and station and stables must be kept in a perfect state of cleanliness; and, above all things, he has to be ready to start away to any part of the district in a case of emergency. His duty also calls upon him to

arrest all offenders, and in the **great majority** of instances to act as Crown Prosecutor. It will thus be seen that the idea that a police trooper in the country districts has little to do, and even less responsibility, is but a popular fallacy, and it is clear that the public get more than an ample return for the amount of pay that is received by the men. The most arduous work falls upon the troopers in the Far Northern Division, where they have to keep a strict watch over the natives, and to hold themselves in readiness to visit any part of the interior where deaths under suspicious circumstances may be reported to have occurred.

The Foot Police.

The number of foot constables considerably exceeds that of the troopers, this fact being of course due to the larger proportion of population that they have to exercise control over. The metropolitan and Port forces are under the control of Inspector Sullivan and Sub-Inspector Doyle and thirteen non-commissioned officers, who are either sergeants or corporals, and the duties of the men may be briefly summed up as being to protect property and to prevent crime. The patrolling police are divided into watches, who have to be on duty for eight hours during either the day or the night, as the case may be, and they are under the immediate supervision of the corporal, who is responsible for the presence of a man on his beat, and for the general conduct of his duties. Since 1882 the system of employing troopers to act as night patrols in the less populous parts of the city and in the suburbs, owing to the numerical weakness of the foot police, has been adopted, and has been found to answer exceedingly well.

The Detectives

Are under the control of a sergeant—Mr. F. J. Upton—but their work is so **important** and of such a delicate nature that they really are under the **constant** personal supervision of the Commissioner of Police himself.

The duties of a detective are most onerous. He has to make himself acquainted with the members of the criminal classes; he is **expected to know if** there are any accessions to its ranks from the **other colonies or from** abroad; and he has also to note anything suspicious that may happen among them. If a case is put into his hands at the office he has to interview the complainant, and then from information supplied to him he sets about unravelling the

mystery. The task is sometimes one of much difficulty, but he is supposed to overcome that and to bring the criminal to justice. The records show that as a rule he is successful in his efforts, although there are cases in which he is foiled. Every morning the Commissioner holds what may be termed a levée at the Detective Office, at which all the men attend. The object of this gathering is that they may consult together as to the cases which are then in course of investigation or which need inquiry. It is a fixed rule that should one of the detectives meet some clue which would be of use to a comrade he is expected to communicate it to him at the earliest possible moment, otherwise he is liable to severe censure; but no interference by one man with another is permitted, as if such a thing were allowed it would only lead to much jealousy.

The Police Fund.

This fund was established by Act of Parliament, its object being to provide for the compensation of police officers who claimed to retire under the provisions of the Civil Service Act, or who were obliged to resign on account of ill-health, or from injuries received in connection with the performance of police duties. A portion of it was also devoted to rewarding police officers for meritorious services, or for reimbursing any member of the force the costs and expenses which he might have incurred in defending himself in the discharge of his duty, provided the Chief Secretary does not consider him blamable in respect to such action. The funds are invested from time to time in the names of the trustees, who are the Commissioner of Police, the Under Secretary, and the Under Treasurer for the time being. Previous to the Police Act, No. 15 of 1869-70, being passed, the fines which the police were entitled to were distributed annually among the members of the force, but now all of them are paid to the credit of the fund. On April 20th, 1870, there was a balance of £1,970 in hand in the Bank of Australasia, where the account is still kept. Only one claim for legal expenses was made, and now there is a good round sum to the credit of the fund.