

South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1840



GOVERNMENT NOTICE

Colonial Secretary's Office,

February 26, 1840

THE Governor has long been of opinion that the peace, prosperity, and good understanding of the province would be advanced and maintained by the formation of a corps of volunteer militia. His Excellency, however, has delayed hitherto to propose to the colonists a measure of this kind, from unwillingness to take them in any degree from those laborious and absorbing occupations, which should characterise the settlers of a new country.

At length, the commissioners having forwarded to him a large supply of small arms, and having announced their intention of sending out some pieces of light and heavy ordnance, the Governor conceives that it is proper to make a commencement.

His Excellency is therefore desirous of receiving the names of any colonist between *eighteen* and *forty* years of age, and in good health, who will engage in this service.

The Force will be divided into

CAVALRY:

Lancers, or Light Dragoons.

INFANTRY:

Light Infantry (including Rifleman) and Grenadiers,

And, when the light and heavy ordnance are received from England, there will be added to it corps of horse and foot artillery.

Every volunteer, on making his application, must state whether he wishes to belong to the Cavalry, Grenadiers, or light Dragoons. For this purpose lists will be opened on and after Tuesday next the 3rd March, at the Colonial Secretary's, Private Secretary's, and Police Offices. Settlers at a distance from Adelaide may send in their names for the formation of rural troops or companies of cavalry or infantry, or of any convenient portion of such troops or companies for their respective neighbourhoods.

The following are the general system and arrangements of the volunteer militia,

proposed to be confirmed by Act of Council:-

Its service will be restricted local, except in cases of extraordinary emergency under an order in Council.

Every Officer and man must bear the expense of his own arms, appointments, uniform, and horse.

The Uniform will be of an economical description, consisting of a forage cap, jacket and ordinary trousers, of patterns and colours hereafter to be determined.

The arms sent out by the Commissioners, will be disposed of as follows:

The price charged by the Colonial Government will be fixed at a sufficiently high standard, to prevent the possibility of unprincipled persons making a trade of those arms to their own advantage.

The volunteer militia-men on receiving their arms from the Government, will pay down the cost price, including freight and other expenses, viz: £1 10 for fusil and bayonet complete.

In the event of a set of arms not produced when required by a proper order, or not being returned to the Government when any man shall desire to leave the corps, the whole fixed price of it shall be charged to the individual accountable for them.

Every man giving up his arms leaving the corps shall be entitled to receiving back any money he may have lodged for them, the amount of damages they may have incurred, otherwise than by fair ordinary wear and tear in the public service, being deducted.

After two years' service, every volunteer shall be entitled to retain as his property the arms he has been using, at cost price.

Persons in Adelaide possessing good rifles, or in the rural districts either muskets or rifles in serviceable order, may be received into the volunteer militia as light

infantry, without being required to supply themselves with muskets from the Government stores.

Every mans' arms shall be kept continually in proper repair and order at his own expense.

Except in the case of extraordinary emergency and under an order in Council, any officer or man may leave the service on giving one month's respectful notice of his desire.

For the first three months after the force shall be formed, every officer and man shall attend drill instruction at the place or places appointed, at least one full hour a-day for three days in each week, except in cases of unavoidable absence, or in the event of being declared proficient.

After the force shall have been well instructed, it shall assemble at stated periods for general exercise, and when called out on particular occasions for the public service.

The hours for instruction and places of assembly will be chosen with all reasonable regard to the convenience of the colonists as regards their ordinary business.

As it would be futile and discreditable to establish a military body in name without affording sufficient power for maintaining it in due order and efficiency, moderate fines and penalties will also by the act of Council, to ensure due attendance at parades and necessary regularity of conduct.

Colonel -in-Chief-

The GOVERNOR,

Lt-Col GEORGE GAWLER, KH.

Major-Commandant-

Capt. O'HALLORAN.

**By order of His Excellency,
ROBERT GOUGER,
Colonial Secretary.**

Presented to A Squadron 3rd/9th Light Horse (South Australian Mounted Rifles)

By the Officer Commanding 2008 – 2010

Major Hamish McKendrick