

A HISTORY OF THE MILITIA GUNNERS
OF VICTORIA
TO 1956

by

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ABSTRACT

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The first militia artillery unit to be formed west of Ontario, Canada, assembled in Victoria, British Columbia in 1878. The operational role of the Victoria Battery of Garrison Artillery was the defence of Victoria and Esquimalt from sea-borne attack. Various changes in title, organization and equipment occurred in the following years, but the primary operational role remained consistent until 1956 when coast artillery was disbanded. This thesis traces the history of the militia artillerymen of Victoria from their colonial military ancestry to the disbandment of coast artillery.

At present there is no comprehensive history of the militia gunners of Victoria. An account of their early history to 1885 is recorded in Professor R. H. Roy's article titled "The Early Militia and Defence of British Columbia, 1871-1885." The theme of this article was extended by Peter Guy Silverman in his M.A. thesis "A History of the Militia and Defences of British Columbia 1871-1914." Colonel G. W. L. Nicholson refers to the history of militia artillery in his comprehensive two volume history, The Gunners of Canada. These sources and others refer to the militia gunners of Victoria in support of wider historic themes. Any attempt

to piece together a history of the militia gunners of Victoria from them reveals considerable gaps in the historical record.

This thesis attempts to provide a single comprehensive history of the militia gunners of Victoria to 1956. In doing so it illuminates one aspect of the history of the Victoria region, contributes to the history of the defence of British Columbia, and describes the history of one militia unit within the broader military history of Canada and, to a lesser extent, the British Empire.

Because of the original nature of the topic, the greater part of the research for this paper has been among primary sources. In addition to the usual local archival records, recourse was made to public and military records in England and to the very large, uncatalogued collection of documents, photographs, diaries and records held by the 5th (British Columbia) ^{Field} Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery. Some valuable records were consulted at Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Park, where traces of the defences are open to public view. Much of the research involved personal interviews to elicit confirmation of a suspected situation, or to throw new light upon a dark corner of research.

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Chapter 1

COLONIAL MILITARY ANCESTRY

The colonial period of British Columbia's history from 1849 to 1871 began with a period of slow development. Victoria was the commercial and administrative centre, and major port for the colony. The nearby anchorage at Esquimalt soon became a forward base for the operations of the Royal Navy in the area. In 1858, the gold rush to the Fraser River brought a very rapid increase in population and expansion of the colony inland. As the colony grew, so the importance of Victoria and Esquimalt grew also. The protection of Victoria and of the naval base at Esquimalt became a matter of increasing concern to both local and Imperial authorities. The concept of a joint Imperial and local defence of the two ports was born. After several attempts, a volunteer military force was finally established in Victoria.¹

Until 1858, the main threat to the security of the sparse population of colonists concentrated mainly around Fort Victoria lay in the overwhelming numbers of the Indian

1. Margaret A. Ormsby, British Columbia: a History (Vancouver: Macmillan, 1971), pp. 1-258; and Barry M. Gough, The Royal Navy and the Northwest Coast of North America, 1810-1914 (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1971) provide general and naval historical background for this chapter.

population of the area. But the Indians were not a unified nation. The actual immediate threat to the white population was therefore no more than the strength of one band.

James Douglas, Governor of the colony from 1851, appreciated this and counted on a policy of swift, just and firm administration of colonial law to contain any local differences before they could spread and become the cause for a unified Indian attack. To assist him in administering the law, and to give the colonists a measure of local protection, he raised a force of auxiliaries known as the Victoria Voltigeurs. Recruited from former employees of the Hudson's Bay Company of mixed French Canadian and Indian blood, colourfully garbed, and with a strength of no more than twenty, they provided armed police protection for the colony until 1858.²

In any major incident, whether it might involve Indians³ or other nations active in the North Pacific, notably the United States of America and Russia, the Colony of Vancouver Island was entirely dependent for its protection upon the occasional visits of ships of the Royal Navy's

2. B.A. McKelvie and Willard E. Ireland, "The Victoria Voltigeurs," British Columbia Historical Quarterly, XX (1956), 231. The Victoria Voltigeurs were referred to by various other titles in despatches and reports. e.g. Voltigeurs, militia, soldiers, Victoria Colonial Voltigeurs.

3. e.g. The Cowichan Valley expedition of 1856, to arrest a few Indians, included 18 Victoria Voltigeurs and 400 seamen of the Royal Navy.

Pacific Squadron. Esquimalt harbour was useful, and soon essential, to its operations in the area. The first permanent buildings were erected there, three huts at Duntze Head, in the early months of 1854.⁴ They were intended to be used as a hospital for the expected casualties from a combined British and French amphibious assault on the Russian depot at Petropavloski, on the south east coast of Amchatka, during the war with Russia of 1854-56.⁵

On April 25, 1858, the steamer Commodore anchored in Victoria harbour and disembarked gold miners from California to begin the gold rush to the Fraser valley. As their numbers increased so did the danger of a clash between white man and Indian. As they mined further and further inland, they moved beyond the easy reach of the Royal Navy. Most of the miners, and many of the settlers who moved in their wake, were Americans, and Douglas suspected that in any dispute which was allowed to fester the new population would look for help from south of the border, and that that help would not be slow in coming.

The Victoria Voltigeurs were of little use in the new situation. Douglas's despatches reporting the dangers

4. Public Archives of British Columbia (cited hereafter as P.A.B.C.) CAA 10.41, Governors Blanshard, Douglas, Correspondence Outward 1850-59, Letters Douglas to Admiral Bruce, May 8, June 28, August 3, October 25, 1855.

5. Gough, The Royal Navy and the Northwest Coast pp. 108-30, for a full account.

inherent in the gold rush⁶ prompted the British government to despatch a specially formed detachment of Royal Engineers to the mainland colony of British Columbia in 1858. Under the command of Colonel Richard Clement Moody, they arrived in Victoria in October,⁷ and were soon in barracks of their own construction at New Westminster. In January they did military duty during an incident between factions of the mining community at Fort Yale which has since become known as Ned McGowan's War. Between calls for military duty, the detachment worked on various engineer tasks, supervised the construction of roads, and surveyed settlement areas and a site for the seat of government. The detachment was disbanded by the British authorities in 1863.⁸

Parallel reports to those of Douglas describing the new situation in the colony in 1858 were made by Admiral Baynes, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Squadron. The

6. P.A.B.C. CAA 10.1, Governor Douglas Despatches to London, Executive 19, May 8, 1858, Executive 23, May 19, 1858, Executive 24, June 10, 1858, Executive 31, July 26, 1858.

7. Moody was also Commander of the Land Forces, Lieutenant Governor and Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. The detachment was 5 officers, a doctor, and 150 men. They brought with them 31 wives and 34 children. On disbandment all officers, but only 25-30 of the men, chose to return to England.

8. Instructions on the use of the detachment are contained in P.A.B.C. CAA 10.2, Great Britain, Colonial Office, Despatches to Vancouver Island, Despatch 6, Lytton to Douglas, July 31, 1858. An account of their accomplishments is given in Frederick W. Howay, The Royal Engineers in British Columbia 1858 to 1863 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1910).

Admiralty responded by transferring a detachment of 150 Royal Marine Light Infantry from China.⁹ They reached Esquimalt in February 1859 and were temporarily quartered in the hospital buildings at Duntze Head and on ships in the harbour. Many of them were soon sent to assist the Royal Engineers on the mainland where they were occupied with tree clearing and road building while awaiting any call for military duty.

Within a few months of the reinforcement of the island and mainland colonies with British troops, the boundary dispute between England and the United States of America over the Island of San Juan, which had been simmering since 1853, erupted.¹⁰ Some ships of the Royal Navy, the whole of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, and a detachment of the Royal Engineers were soon committed to this dispute and remained so until November 21, 1872, when the island was finally handed over to the Americans.

The landing of American troops on San Juan Island raised the possibility of further similar actions on the mainland or on Vancouver Island. An obvious solution to the

9. P.A.B.C. CAA 10.17, Governor Douglas Despatches to London, Executive 7, February 19, 1859. This marine detachment was available for redeployment with the conclusion of the Second China War.

10. A detachment of the United States Army landed on the island in July 1859, ostensibly to protect American settlers there from Indian attack. David Blair Richardson, Pig War Islands (East Sound Washington: Orcas, 1971), for an account of the dispute. P.A.B.C. CAA 10.17, Vancouver Island-Governor Douglas, Despatches to London, 1, 8, 12, 22 August, 1859.

shortage of British troops in the area was to raise local volunteer forces. The initiative for this had to come from the populace itself.

The first attempt to organise a volunteer unit in Victoria was made in August 1859. On the initiative of Mr. Hecatan of the Sheriff's Office, a list of 67 "volunteers and probable volunteers"¹¹ was submitted to Douglas. Although he approved the movement, he could not supply arms and equipment and it quickly died.

A second and more successful attempt occurred a year later, in April 1860, when the negro community of Victoria, partly from a sincere desire for public service, partly as a result of their exclusion from the volunteer fire brigades of the city, formed the Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps.¹² Encouraged by Douglas, the Corps drilled regularly until 1864, although there were many citizens who opposed it. On his arrival in March, 1864, Governor A. E. Kennedy refused to acknowledge its existence, claiming there was no legal ground for it. The Corps declined, returned its arms when requested in June 1866, and passed into oblivion.¹³

11. P.A.B.C. OBV26, Vancouver Island Volunteer Rifle Corps Correspondence, Hecatan to Douglas August 15, 20, 1859.

12. The Corps were referred to by other names, e.g. African Rifles, Black Brigade, Pioneer Rifle Company, Black Rifles, Coloured Rifle Corps and Rifle Volunteers.

13. P.A.B.C. OBV26, Vancouver Island Volunteer Rifle Corps Correspondence, various documents dated July 31, August 5, 1862, March 3, 1863, March 1864, June 12, 13, 1866; S. W. Jackman "The Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps. British

In 1861 it seemed possible that Britain might become involved in the American Civil War. In an atmosphere of emergency in the colony, another volunteer unit was formed in Victoria. With the approval of Douglas, 131 men were enrolled at an inauguration meeting on June 30. Major George F. Foster was appointed to command the new Vancouver Island Volunteer Rifle Corps.¹⁴ Organised with a rifle company and an artillery company, the Corps held its first drill at James Bay Victoria on July 24, 1861. On November 27, the riflemen seceded from the Corps to form the Vancouver Island Rifle Volunteers after a disagreement with the gunners over which company commander should command the Corps during Foster's temporary absence. The secession increased the bitterness of the dispute.¹⁵ Both companies were finally disbanded by the Governor on July 16, 1862.¹⁶ The artillery company attempted to reform in August, but it was denied financial support by the legislature and was

Columbia 1860-1866," The Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research, XXXIX, No. 157, March 1961.

14. P.A.B.C. OBV26, Vancouver Island Volunteer Rifle Corps Correspondence, Robertson-Stewart to Douglas June 23, 1861. Other names have been attributed to this Corps e.g. Victoria Rifle Volunteer Regiment, Victoria Rifle Volunteers, Vancouver Island Rifles and Rifle Volunteers. Foster was an ex-Major of the British Army, a farmer and member of the Legislature. Foster Island, Queen Charlotte Sound is named for him.

15. Ibid., J. I. Pidwell to Douglas March 1, 1862, J. R. Stewart to Colonial Secretary March 3, 1864.

16. The Daily British Colonist [Victoria], July 18, 1862.

unable to continue.¹⁷ Its demise marked the end of the first white volunteer unit in Victoria.

During this period of Anglo-American tension, the British authorities paid increased attention to the defence of the colony. One thousand rifles were shipped to the colony for the use of volunteers. For a while, a garrison of British infantry was considered for Victoria.¹⁸ The Admiralty ordered two 68-pounder and fourteen 32-pounder guns landed from H.M.S. Bacchante and H.M.S. Topaze for the defence of Esquimalt harbour.¹⁹ They were never mounted, but the need for artillery defence of the harbour had been expressed. It was emphasised in 1863 when the Legislative Assembly in Victoria addressed a memorial to the Colonial Secretary calling for artillery defence of Victoria and Esquimalt against possible attack by American ironclad ships. The memorial suggested that such artillery should be manned by a nucleus of Royal Marine or British Army artillerymen supplemented by a local volunteer force.²⁰ With the

17. Ibid., August 9, 1862.

18. P.A.B.C. Despatches to Vancouver Island from the Colonial Office, Folio 11, Despatch 62, Newcastle to Douglas June 25, 1861. P.A.B.C. CAA 10.17, Vancouver Island, Governor Douglas Despatches to London, Military 2, January 13, 1862, Military 39, July 30, 1862.

19. P.A.B.C. F1206, Maitland to Douglas, September 1862.

20. P.A.B.C. Vancouver Island, Governor, Correspondence Inward, Communications from House of Assembly, Memorial addressed to Duke of Newcastle, February 16, 1864.

improvement of Anglo-American relations no action was taken on the memorial, but the concept persisted.

In the spring of 1864, two years after the death of the Vancouver Island Volunteer Rifle Corps, with the Pioneer Rifle Corps unrecognised by the Governor and in decline, and with all of the British troops in the area on garrison duty on San Juan Island, a new volunteer unit was raised in Victoria, largely by the efforts of one citizen, Captain D. M. Lang. An organisation meeting was held in St. Patrick's Hall, Victoria on Saturday, March 19, 1864.²¹ It marked the beginning of a volunteer military lineage in Victoria which has continued to the present day.

The new unit, with an initial enrollment of sixty-seven, was approved by Governor Kennedy as the Victoria Rifle Volunteer Corps. A small band was formed, and a uniform "similar to that of the 60th Rifles of H.M. army"²² was ordered from England. A second company was raised in August 1865, "not from antagonism for No. 1 Company but rather for healthy spirit of competition."²³ Both companies camped at Beacon Hill, near Henly's farm, in July 1866, at the height of a Fenian scare in the colony. The strength of

21. The Daily British Colonist [Victoria], March 21, 1864. David Marshall Lang was an Englishman, manager of the Bank of British Columbia in Victoria and very popular in the colony. He returned to England in 1867.

22. P.A.B.C. OBV26, Vancouver Island Volunteer Rifle Corps Correspondence, Lang to Colonial Secretary, November 1, 1864.

23. Ibid., Report of Public Meeting, August 3, 1865.

the Corps declined during a depression in the colony in 1867 so that a new single company was formed under the command of Lieutenant F. J. Roscoe in 1868.²⁴ On March 9, 1869 it was given a legal constitution in an ordinance of the legislature of the colony with twenty-four sections governing its conduct.²⁵

By the end of the colonial period of British Columbia's history local volunteer forces were firmly and legally established, accepted by both the populace and the government. But they were not sufficient to meet the total defence needs of the colony. There was a lingering danger of Fenian raids, a continuing suspicion of American intentions toward the colony and an awareness of the Russian menace. The easiest route for a surprise attack on the colony was by sea and the first line of defence against such an attack was the Royal Navy. A keystone in this defence, and in the Royal Navy's total Pacific operation, was the base at Esquimalt, which, like the colony's principal city Victoria, had no land defences. To provide an acceptable standard of defence for the colony the weakness at Esquimalt and Victoria needed correction and the colony's volunteer organisation needed strengthening. The deficiency at Esquimalt and Victoria had been recognised for some time by

24. The Daily British Colonist [Victoria], March 18, 1868. Francis James Roscoe was a partner in the firm of Fellows, Roscoe and Co., iron merchants, Victoria.

25. P.A.B.C. NW346B862, A Ordinance to establish a Volunteer Force, March 9, 1869.

both the Colonial Government and the Admiralty and was the major defence problem that the colony took with it into confederation in 1871.

Chapter 2

BIRTH OF A REGIMENT

When British Columbia joined confederation in 1871, the Dominion Government became responsible for its defence. The Dominion militia system was quickly extended to the province, enabling infantry companies to be raised. Defences to protect Victoria and Esquimalt from attack by sea were not provided until a crisis in Anglo-Russian affairs made such an attack seem imminent. A militia artillery unit was raised in Victoria to man the batteries that were erected.¹

In December 1871, the spectre of a Fenian attack was raised in Victoria by an anonymous letter to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, Joseph W. Trutch. Local concern over the defenceless state of Victoria and Esquimalt was expressed in newspapers, letters and despatches.²

The alarm in the new province was heeded in Ottawa.

1. Margaret A. Ormsby, British Columbia: a History (Vancouver: Macmillan, 1971); Barry M. Gough, The Royal Navy and the Northwest Coast of North America, 1810-1914 (Vancouver: British Columbia Press, 1971); R. H. Roy, "The Early Militia and Defence of British Columbia, 1871-1885," British Columbia Historical Quarterly, XVIII (1954), provide general, naval and military background for this chapter.

2. P.A.B.C. 410A, Microfilm, Early Defences and Militia of B.C. 1871-1885, Cator to Lieutenant-Governor, January 3, 1872; Trutch to Governor General, January 2, 4, 9, 1872. The Daily British Colonist [Victoria], January 4, 1872, editorial notably.

The Dominion's Adjutant General of Militia, Colonel F. Robertson-Ross, considered that British Columbia's immediate military need could be met by raising a force of 500 militia in the province. Arms and equipment were accordingly ordered from England to be delivered direct to Victoria. In October 1872, Colonel Robertson-Ross visited Victoria and after discussion with leading officials and with Lieutenant Roscoe, Commander of the Victoria Rifle Volunteer Corps, he concluded that the province's militia should consist of five companies of infantry, two at Victoria and one at Nanaimo, New Westminster and Burrards Inlet, with the Seymour Artillery volunteers at New Westminster reorganised as a militia artillery unit.³

A militia company was raised in Victoria on December 2, 1873. At a meeting at the Mechanics Institute, Captain Roscoe announced the end of the Rifle Volunteer Corps and Colonel C. F. Houghton, Deputy Adjutant General for Military District 11, British Columbia, enrolled 44 men, many of whom were former members of the old Corps.⁴ Roscoe was elected captain and commander of the new company with another officer of the old Corps, J. G. Vinter, as Lieutenant and an ex-Royal Engineer, R. Wolfenden, as Ensign.

On December 19, 1873, a second company was raised,

3. Roy, "The Early Militia," p. 7.

4. The Daily British Colonist [Victoria], December 4, 1873.

the first company having reached its full strength of 50.⁵

A new drill hall for the companies was completed in December 1874, and a militia band was raised the same year.⁶

The first Dominion plan for coast artillery defences for Esquimalt and Victoria was not made until 1875. Major General E. Selby-Smyth, the new commander of the Canadian Militia, after visiting the area, directed Colonel G. F. Blair, a former Royal Artillery officer, to prepare a detailed defence plan for the two harbours which would use obsolete guns lying in the naval dockyard. Blair's plan included batteries on Macaulay Point, Victoria Point and Fisgard Island, but no immediate action was taken to implement it.⁷

In 1877, Russian advances in the Balkans promoted another crisis in Anglo-Russian affairs. By the early weeks of 1878, war between Britain and Russia seemed very close. As the crisis grew the Colonial Office became concerned about the lack of defences at Esquimalt and Victoria. The Admiralty was asked to loan the guns in Esquimalt dockyard

5. Ibid., December 20, 1873. The official birth-date of both companies was February 13, 1874. The Canada Gazette, February 4, April 11, 1874.

6. The drill hall was built on Menzies Street by Charles Hayward and Robert Jenkinson. It still stands. Mr. Haynes, ex-R.E., was bandmaster of the new band which existed until 1889.

7. Sessional Papers of the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, Report on the State of the Militia of the Dominion of Canada (cited hereafter as Militia Report) for the year 1878, Ottawa: Maclean, Roger and Co., 1879, p. 306.

for local defence and, to ease the strain on British financial and manpower resources, Canadian assistance was sought for a combined defence of Victoria and Esquimalt.⁸ The Dominion responded with an offer to construct earth-works for coast defence batteries and to provide men if Britain would provide the guns. The offer was accepted.

In Victoria meanwhile, the seeming lack of any action by either British or Canadian authorities during 1877 was interpreted as lack of concern. The visit of a squadron of nine Russian vessels to San Francisco in May 1877 had emphasised the weakness of a defence dependent upon two Royal Navy gunboats at Esquimalt. Fears raised then were nourished by rumour, and dramatic newspaper reports, until they reached a zenith early in February 1878, when another squadron of five Russian warships was reported at San Francisco.

On February 16, 1878, an emergency conference took place at Esquimalt between Premier Elliott, Colonel Houghton and Captain Robinson, senior naval officer at Esquimalt.⁹ Captain Robinson, on his own initiative, offered guns from the dockyard for coast defence batteries. Colonel Houghton undertook to raise volunteers to man them.

8. D. M. Schurman "Esquimalt: Defence Problems, 1865-1887," The British Columbia Historical Quarterly, XIX, 1955, p. 62.

9. The Daily British Colonist [Victoria], February 17, 1878. Captain Cooper, commanding the dockyard, was also present.

The next day, Sunday morning, February 17, 1878, the following advertisement appeared in the Daily British Colonist:-

PERSONS DESIROUS OF ENROLLING themselves as a Volunteer Artillery Corps, are urgently requested to report themselves personally to the Deputy Adjutant General of Militia at the Drill Shed, between the hours of 12m. and 2p.m. on Monday next the 18th instant.

The response was immediate. Colonel Houghton raised three detachments commanded by Captains Croasdale, Machell and C. T. Dupont. Daily drills, from 4 to 9 p.m., began on February 20.¹⁰ Detachments 1 and 3 completed the first gun drill on March 9 on a 65-pounder gun on the wharf at the dockyard. Shortly afterward, Colonel Houghton received news from Ottawa that a militia artillery unit was to be raised in Victoria and batteries constructed for the city's defence.¹¹

Lieutenant-Colonel De la Chevois T. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery at Kingston, Ontario, ordered by General Selby-Smyth to supervise the organisation of the defences, arrived in Victoria on May 27, 1878, a few days after the Admiralty had authorised the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt to loan

10. Ibid., February 19, 20, 1878. Croasdale was a retired Royal Navy Lieutenant, Machell a retired British Army Captain and Dupont had served as an officer in the Victoria Rifles, a militia unit in Montreal, and was an employee in the Inland Revenue Department.

11. Ibid., March 26, April 19, 1878. This was, of course, the Canadian contribution to the Anglo-Canadian agreement.

guns from the dockyard for the defences.¹² On the evening of his arrival he and Colonel Houghton attended a parade of the artillery volunteers at the drill shed. Next day the Colonist reported:-¹³

Artillery Company - Last evening thirty-one recruits were enrolled at the drill shed as artillerymen under the Canadian Statutes. Before swearing them in Colonel Houghton, D.A.G., explained the duties and regulations of a company and stated that it would, as soon as sworn in, come under the Mutiny and Militia Acts. After having been sworn in Mr. C. T. Dupont was elected captain by acclamation, Mr. D. McNaughton 1st Lieutenant and Mr. N. Pinder 2nd Lieutenant. The first drill will take place this evening May 28, and will be more especially for those who have no knowledge of artillery routine and were not members of the late volunteer company.

- - and three days later:-¹⁴

The Artillery Company last evening Thursday May 30 held their second drill at the drill shed. The attendance was good, there being some forty men present. Captain Dupont, prior to exercise, informed them that Colonel Irwin would on Monday next at 8.30 p.m. commence a series of lectures on gunnery, which it would be well for all to attend. The lecture will commence at 8.30 p.m.; drill at 7.30 p.m.

On June 1, the Lieutenant-Governor formally requested the

12. P.A.B.C. DA 10G 79, Vol. 5, Records of the Senior Naval Officer Stationed at Esquimalt 1874-1881, Telegram, Admiralty to Senior Officer at Esquimalt, May 18, 1878, Confirmed by letter Secretary of Admiralty to Commander-in-Chief Pacific Station, May 29, 1878, received July 1, 1878.

13. The Daily British Colonist [Victoria], May 28, 1878.

14. Ibid., May 31, 1878.

loan of guns from the naval dockyard.¹⁵ Three days later, on June 4, Mr. G. Stelly's team of horses hauled a 64-pounder to the drill shed in James Bay where it would be used for training until mounted in a battery. The Artillery Company had its first gun.

Preparation of the earthworks for the guns had hardly begun before Rear Admiral de Horsey, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Squadron, arrived at Esquimalt aboard the flagship H.M.S. Shah. In response to a request from Irwin, the Admiral directed Captain F. G. D. Bedford, Gunnery Lieutenant Charles Lindsay, and Captain Alexander Burrowes Royal Marine Artillery, to assist Irwin in siting the batteries.¹⁶ Blair's 1875 plan was amended and the decision made to complete four batteries: Two on the seaward slopes of Beacon Hill, Victoria, at Finlayson Point (Two 64-pounders) and Nias Point (Two 64 pounders); one at Macaulay Point (Three 7-inch guns) between Victoria and Esquimalt; and one on Brother's Island (One 8-inch, two 64-pounders) at the entrance to Esquimalt harbour.¹⁷

By the end of August the batteries were complete. All of the guns were rifled muzzle loaders on various types

15. P.A.B.C. DA 10G 79, Vol. 5, Records of the Senior Naval Officer stationed at Esquimalt 1874-1881, Lieutenant-Governor to Capt. F.C.B. Robinson, June 1, 1878.

16. Ibid., Irwin to de Horsey June 21, 1878, de Horsey to Bedford June 21, 1878. Irwin had been directed to make this contact by Selby-Smyth.

17. Ibid., Bedford's Report, June 27, 1878.

of carriages and slides. They were mounted en barbette, on a terrace behind an earth rampart and parapet intended to offer some protection from enemy fire to the men serving the guns. All of the pieces were positioned using ropes, pulleys, hired labour and horses under the technical supervision of Lieutenant-Colonel Irwin. The Royal Navy assisted in moving the guns to Brother's Island. The completion of the works and the mounting of the guns in such a short time and in such circumstances was a considerable achievement for which Lieutenant-Colonel Irwin must be given full credit.¹⁸

The first gun to be fired from the new batteries was a 7-inch gun at Macaulay Point. It was fired at 5 p.m. on Friday, July 26, 1878, by the Victoria Battery of Garrison Artillery.¹⁹ Three days later, the Battery fired its first ceremonial gun salute from Macaulay Point, at 3 p.m. on Monday, July 29, in honour of the Lieutenant-Governor on the occasion of the opening of the third provincial assembly.²⁰ These firings marked the beginning of a period of eighty years of coast artillery defence of Esquimalt and Victoria. They occurred when the Anglo-Russian crisis was waning.

18. Irwin's report of his activities is contained in the Militia Report for the year 1878, Ottawa: Maclean, Roger and Co., 1879, pp. 306-312.

19. The Daily British Colonist [Victoria], July 26, 1878. This title was given when the formation of the battery was authorised in Militia General Order (cited hereafter as M.G.O.) July 19, 1878, repeated in the Canada Gazette, July 20, 1878.

20. The Daily British Colonist [Victoria], July 30, 1878.

After the Congress of Berlin in 1878, British and Dominion authorities began discussions of long term plans for the defence of Victoria and Esquimalt. Colonel J. W. Lovell, representing the War Office, and Lieutenant-Colonel T. B. Strange, representing the Dominion, made a joint reconnaissance of the area in 1879 and submitted reports. Lovell recommended very extensive defences with a large British garrison and many guns: Strange a more moderate defence concentrated primarily to protect the naval installations at Esquimalt.²¹

Both reports, and verbal evidence given by Sir John A. Macdonald, (Prime Minister of Canada), Sir Astley Cooper Key, (First Sea Lord and others), were examined by a Royal Commission appointed by Lord Carnarvon, the Colonial Secretary, ". . . to enquire into the Defence of British Possessions and Commerce abroad."²² The Commission concluded, in its report of 1882, that "Esquimalt was strategically indefensible and valueless,"²³ but recognised that there were political and construction commitments related to the trans-Canada railway and the graving dock which precluded abandonment. In these circumstances the Commission suggested that "if the Canadians would construct the works and provide

21. Roy, "The Early Militia," pp. 19-20; Schurman, "Esquimalt: Defence Problems," p. 63; P.A.B.C. 411A. Microfilm of Lovell and Strange reports.

22. Schurman, "Esquimalt: Defence Problems," p. 61.

23. Ibid., p. 66.

a garrison, the British Government should supply the actual guns and professional assistance."²⁴

The Carnarvon Commission's suggestion became the controlling policy for the defences of Esquimalt and Victoria in the next three decades. Discussions between Ottawa and London on the practical application of the policy soon began. As a first step the Militia Act of 1883 authorised the formation of "C" Battery Canadian Artillery as a garrison for Esquimalt.

While policy decisions were being made in London and Ottawa which would considerably effect its future, the Victoria Battery of Garrison Artillery continued to train for its role in the defences. At the Battery's first annual inspection on December 14, 1878, by Lieutenant-Colonel Houghton and the Lieutenant-Governor, infantry drill was executed and then a firing practice using the two 64-pounder guns at Finlayson Point. Four rounds each of shot and shell were fired:-²⁵

. . . at a target anchored 1100 yards from the battery. The guns were well served and the practice was remarkably good, none of the shots missing the target by more than three feet laterally, or, as I [Houghton] should judge, four feet perpendicularly, two of the shells actually bursting directly over the target and within three to four feet of it.

Colonel Lovell inspected the Battery during his reconnaissance

24. Ibid.

25. Militia Report for the year 1878, Ottawa: Maclean, Roger and Co., 1879, p. 216.

in 1879 and reported they "made excellent practice at the targets."²⁶ The annual inspection and firing practice on August 10, 1880, was conducted in camp at Beacon Hill for the first time. The inspecting officer reported "the shooting throughout was exceedingly good and the time excellent."²⁷ Two years later heavy rain, a high wind and strong tides caused the usual target, a floating, anchored barrel, to drift to a range of more than 2,000 yards. Nevertheless the Governor-General, who witnessed the practice, complimented the Battery on the results achieved.²⁸

Although successful in its gunnery, the Battery was not without problems. During the first two years there was a shortage of uniforms and accoutrements. With no permanent staff of trained gunners maintenance of the equipment was difficult. In 1881, Colonel J. Wimburn Laurie, the Deputy Adjutant General, reported:-²⁹

There are no fences round the batteries and cattle range over the parapets and tramp them down, mischievous persons take out and throw away the

26. P.A.B.C. DA 10G 79, Vol. 5, Records of the Senior Naval Officer Stationed at Esquimalt 1874-1881, Colonel J. W. Lovell, "Report on the Defences of Esquimalt and Victoria," December 1879.

27. Militia Report for the year 1880, Ottawa: Maclean, Roger and Co., 1881, p. 66.

28. Militia Report for the year 1882, Ottawa: Maclean, Roger and Co., 1883, p. 47.

29. Militia Report for the year 1881, Ottawa: Maclean, Roger and Co., 1882, pp. 62-63. Quoins and tampions were both made of wood. The former, wedge shaped, was used to block the barrel at the rear, in elevation, and the latter to plug the muzzle.

quoins and tampions and fill the guns with sticks and stones, hence everything movable is taken away and kept under lock and key; but the guns are kept painted (although unfortunately a rusty, red color), and the vents and sight slots are well plugged with grease, so that, though the batteries and the armament present rather a dilapidated appearance, in contrast with those on which regular troops are constantly employed, the guns are not really deteriorating, and the caretaker conscientiously does his best to preserve the guns; and the stores are in good order and well cared for, although the storehouses are very cramped and damp.

The most critical problem the Battery faced was to recruit sufficient men to fill its ranks. At first, Captain Dupont would not allow a recruit to join unless he was a resident of Victoria and a uniform was readily available. In the peaceful years of the early 1880's recruiting declined and the Battery could only muster about half of its authorised strength of eight officers and 115 non-commissioned officers and men, this in spite of a relaxation of the height regulation for artillery recruits.

In 1883, Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Holmes, a former officer of "A" Battery School of Gunnery at Kingston, was appointed Deputy Adjutant General of Military District 11.³⁰ He was responsible for concentrating the militia gunners in the province under one command, and for reorganising the militia units of Victoria to make full use of the available manpower for the defences of Esquimalt and Victoria.

30. Holmes was an officer of St. Catherines Garrison Battery before serving with "A" Battery. He was the first artillery officer appointed as D.A.G., M.D.11.

The changes were announced in the Canada Gazette of 7 October 13, 1883:-

The formation of a Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery is hereby authorised in the Province of British Columbia, to be designated the British Columbia Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery. The Headquarters to be in Victoria. To be composed as follows:-
 Seymour Battery of Garrison Artillery, New Westminster to be No. 1 Battery
 Victoria Battery of Garrison Artillery, half to be No. 2 Battery
 Victoria Battery of Garrison Artillery, half to be No. 3 Battery
 No. 1 Company of Rifles Victoria, to be No. 4 Battery

Dupont commanded the new Regiment with Wolfenden, from No. 1 Company of Rifles, as his adjutant. The second company of rifles in Victoria was redesignated the Victoria Rifle Company,³¹ and the militia band was transferred from the rifle companies to the Regiment. The new Regiment completed its first public duty on December 3, 1883, when it provided a guard of honour for the Lieutenant-Governor of the province at the opening of the legislature.

The reorganisation of the militia gunners of Victoria to form the British Columbia Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery provided a militia unit better fitted to its role of manning the coast artillery defences of Victoria and Esquimalt. But organisation of militia manpower did not, in itself, guarantee a higher standard of defence for the two

31. This company survived until May 3, 1889, when it was removed from the list of corps of the Active Militia. It did not attract sufficient recruits.

harbours. The batteries that the militia gunners would man had been mounted hurriedly to meet an emergency, using equipment readily available but not originally intended for the task of coast defence. Tactical and technical limitations of the equipment had dictated that the batteries be sited in exposed locations and the speed of erection had precluded the provision of adequate permanent protection against the effect of time and weather. A permanent garrison and regular maintenance of the earthworks and guns could prevent much of the deterioration. Regular troops would also provide a basic guaranteed standard of efficiency in manning the defences and could help to raise the level of efficiency of the militia gunners. In 1883, there was cause for optimism among the militia gunners that the deficiencies in equipment and in the general level of efficiency of the defences of Esquimalt and Victoria would soon be remedied. The British Government was considering improvement of the armament and the Dominion Government had promised "C" Battery as a regular garrison. The years to follow would show whether the optimism was justified.

Chapter 3

A REGIMENT OF THE MILITIA

In 1883, the Regiment was ready to build upon the foundation which had been established with its new organisation. It was now organised to man the defences of Esquimalt and Victoria, but needed to advance its state of training and discipline as a unit to ensure the efficiency of the defences. While it could do much to help itself it also needed outside help. It was to be some years before that help was forthcoming and then it would prove less than adequate. Through the next ten years the gun batteries, temporary when erected in 1878, would deteriorate until they became almost entirely useless.¹

The Regiment was ordered to its first camp on Beacon Hill on July 19, 1884. It had prepared for it with twice weekly evening drills during March and April, and by sending nine officers and seventeen other ranks to the first artillery school of instruction in Victoria, run by

1. Margaret A. Ormsby, British Columbia: a History (Vancouver: Macmillan, 1971), pp. 289-313; George F. G. Stanley, Canada's Soldiers (Toronto: Macmillan, 1960) Chapter XV; and Colonel G. W. L. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1967) I, Chapter IV, for general background to this chapter.

Lieutenant-Colonel Holmes from April 17 to July 10.² In camp the Regiment followed a daily routine of infantry and gun drill. The timetable, controlled by bugle calls, was demanding:-

Rouse Sounding	4.30 a.m.	Dinner	6.30 p.m.
Reveille	4.45 a.m.	Evening Parade	7 p.m.
Morning Parade	5 a.m.	Guard Mounting	8 p.m.
Breakfast	6.30 a.m.	Retreat	Sunset
Orderly Room	8 a.m.	Tattoo 1st Post	9.30 p.m.
		2nd Post	10 p.m.
		Lights out	10.15 p.m.

General leave, except to men on duty, was accorded from 6.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. to enable men to continue their civilian occupations in Victoria. On the final day there was an inspection by Lieutenant-Colonel Holmes and then by Rear Admiral Lyons, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Station, who took the salute as the Regiment marched out of camp to the drill hall. Throughout the camp many of the citizens of Victoria had been regular spectators. Their pride and interest in the Regiment was expressed in practical terms when the Municipal Council voted a sum of \$200 toward camp expenses besides supplying water, fuel and the camp ground at no charge.³

It is most probable that it was in this first year that Major Dupont gave the Regiment the motto "Nunquam Non

2. Militia Report for the year 1884, Ottawa: Maclean, Roger and Co., 1885, pp.181, 182; Canada Gazette, August 16, 1884.

3. Regimental Orders (cited hereafter as R.O's.) July 2-August 8, 1884. Eighteen orders in this period provide details of this camp.

Paratus" Never not prepared . It was at once a symbol of his pride and faith in the Regiment and an example of his desire to do everything possible to encourage its esprit de corps. Neither the motto nor the Regiment's own crest, which was apparently designed later, have the official sanction of the Militia Department in Ottawa so that their use has been limited to Regimental cards and stationery.⁴

Anglo-Russian relations declined during the last weeks of 1884 and reached a crisis point briefly in the early months of 1885 after an incident on the Afghan border.⁵ The crisis stimulated local concern for the defences of Esquimalt and Victoria which in turn prompted reaction in Ottawa and London.

During the worst period of the crisis in April 1885, Lieutenant-Colonel Holmes ordered precautionary measures taken. The Regiment prepared to man the guns with 2 Battery at Finlayson Point, 3 Battery at Macaulay Point, and 4 Battery on Brothers Island.⁶ An ambulance corps was organised and parades were held more frequently. The precautions were shortlived. By the middle of May the Regiment had returned

4. P.A.B.C. OBR54, F. A. Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Garrison Artillery and Early Defences of the B.C. Coast" (Typescript) 1925, XVI, p. 9. Crest and motto are still in use today.

5. Russia had gradually absorbed the central Asian Khanates and attacked Afghan forces at Penjdeh on March 30, 1885. Britain occupied Port Hamilton on the Korean coast in preparation for operations against Vladivostock.

6. R.O. April 4, 1885.

to its normal routine drills.

The alarm felt in Victoria served to focus attention on the rotting wooden carriages of the 64-pounders and the crumbling earthworks.⁷ The Lieutenant-Governor and the premier of the province both wired Ottawa, warning of the inadequacy of the defences in the face of a possible Russian attack. Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald was besieged by a deputation of British Columbia senators and members of parliament who expressed their concern at the danger to Victoria and Esquimalt.⁸ But Ottawa was preoccupied with the North West Rebellion, the trans-Canada railway was not yet complete, making reinforcement of the West coast difficult and certainly expensive, and there was a reluctance to spend money until war was actually declared. Ottawa did not act. The apparent lack of concern angered Victorians who expressed their wrath in the newspapers and through a resolution of the Municipal Council presented to the Lieutenant-Governor,⁹ but to no avail.

7. Militia Report for the year 1884, Ottawa: Maclean, Roger and Co., 1885, pp. 54, 56, 182; Public Record Office, London, England (cited hereafter as P.R.O.) CAB 11/27, Colonial Defence Committee Memoranda, Remarks and Minutes, No. 2M, dated 1.5.85. The rotting wooden carriages and slides and crumbling earthworks, particularly in the 64-pounder batteries, were a constant feature of reports in the following years. In 1866 Holmes reported two thirds of the 64-pounders useless with unserviceable carriages and slides.

8. C. S. Mackinnon, "The Imperial Fortresses in Canada: Halifax and Esquimalt, 1871-1906." (Unpublished M.A. Thesis, University of Toronto, 1965), p. 286.

9. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], March 4, 5, 1885 notably.

The Lieutenant-Governor also expressed his concern direct to the Colonial Office in a telegram in April 1885.¹⁰ It reinforced a report which the Colonial Defence Committee had already received from the Commander-in-Chief Pacific Station calling for stronger defences.¹¹ The early end to the Anglo-Russian crisis forestalled emergency improvement measures, but the concern aroused in London persisted and this was now focussed on the completion of a long term plan for the defence of Esquimalt and Victoria.¹²

The various departments concerned in London revised their plans for the defences after their representatives had visited Esquimalt during 1886. In June 1887, the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineer Works Committee at the War Office considered all recommendations and finally decided upon a plan which included the use of submarine mines at the entrance to Esquimalt harbour and batteries sited at:-¹³

10. P.R.O. CAB 5.1.7968, Memorandum on the Standard Defence at Esquimalt, Secret, May 1903, p. 2.

11. P.A.B.C. DA 10G 79, Vol. 6, Records of the Senior Naval Officer Stationed at Esquimalt 1880-1898, Report dated December 9, 1884, Baird to Admiralty January 15, 1885.

12. P.R.O. CAB 5.1.7968, Memorandum on the Standard of Defence at Esquimalt, Secret, May 1903; CAB 11/27.7968, Memorandum by the Colonial Defence Committee No. 79M, Secret, October 26, 1896. The Committee suggested a long term plan on June 22, 1885. A suggested division of responsibility was sent to the Governor-General in a Despatch of October 27, 1885.

13. Mackinnon, "The Imperial Fortresses in Canada:" p. 334. B.L.- Breech Loading. R.M.L.- Rifled Muzzle Loading. The 9-inch R.M.L. guns were soon afterwards found to be unsatisfactory in this role.

Rodd Hill. Three 6-inch B.L. guns on disappearing mountings.
 Macaulay Point. Three 6-inch B.L. guns on disappearing mountings. Two of these were to be sited to give protection to Victoria.
 Sangsters Knoll. Four 9-inch R.M.L. guns adapted for high angle fire in a counter bombardment role.

The discussions between London and Ottawa on the defence of Esquimalt and Victoria, which had been in temporary abeyance, recommenced in 1888 on this new modern armament plan.

On November 10, 1887, the long awaited "C" Battery, Regiment of Canadian Artillery arrived in Victoria, the first regular Canadian troops to serve in the province.¹⁴ The formation of the Battery had been delayed for four years by recruiting difficulties. It had finally been formed with drafts of 50 men from each of "A" and "B" Batteries.¹⁵

It was hoped that the Battery would reinforce the defences, provide regular maintenance for the guns and earthworks, and give training assistance to the British Columbia Brigade of Garrison Artillery.¹⁶ However it spent much of its first two years clearing the site for its barracks at Work Point and helping in the construction. In

14. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], November 11, 1887. This account includes a nominal roll of "C" Battery.

15. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada I, p. 124; P.A.B.C. 411A, Microfilm, Early Defences and Militia of B.C. 1871-1885, for considerable correspondence relating to the formation of "C" Battery. A copy of a recruiting poster for R.M. and R.N. pensioners can be seen at Fort Rodd National Historic Park, Esquimalt

16. Canada Gazette, May 8, 1886. The Regiment's new title.

1888, the Battery was on duty in the Skeena River area for two months of the summer during a threatened Indian uprising there. Nevertheless, in spite of these commitments and steadily declining strength due to discharges and desertion,¹⁷ some maintenance was done on the guns and Master Gunner Cornish of the Battery regularly conducted training classes for the Brigade.

In September 1889, officers of "C" Battery supervised firing practice by the Brigade using restored 64-pounder guns at Finlayson Point. The occasion was welcomed by the Brigade both for the technical assistance given by "C" Battery and for the opportunity to practice artillery skills. Unserviceable guns and a biennial allotment of ammunition had restricted practice in previous years. Although gun drill had been regularly practiced, much greater emphasis had been placed on infantry drill.

The Brigade was thoroughly examined in infantry skills at each annual inspection. It was by the performance of infantry drill that the general public and reviewing officers judged it. Through these years there were many occasions when a judgement could be made. The Brigade provided guards of honour for the visits of the Governor-General in 1885 and 1889, the Minister of Militia in 1887, and the Duke of Connaught in 1890. Annually, on July 1,

17. Militia Report for the year 1890, Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1891, for a report on the Battery's activities.

there was a public parade in celebration of Dominion Day. On June 21, 1887, Queen Victoria's Jubilee was celebrated in Victoria with a large military parade on Beacon Hill involving the Brigade with some 600 sailors and Royal Marines. It was followed by a sham fight. The Brigade drew some mild criticism in the local press when its drill and administration was compared with that of the regular British forces.¹⁸

When Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Gawler Prior took command of the Brigade in 1888, he began a regular programme of ceremonial drill parades at the drill hall and the number of public parades increased. On May 25, 1889, the Victoria Batteries went to Vancouver to parade there on Dominion Day with No. 1 Battery for the first time. In Victoria there were frequent "march-outs" through the town, often culminating in a church service at one of the churches. The improved drill and bearing of the batteries, and the regular appearance in the public eye, drew recruits to the ranks of the Brigade,¹⁹ and brought it to that state of disciplined reliability where it could be called upon to perform duty in aid of the civil power.

On Tuesday, August 4, 1890, a requisition for help from the militia, signed by local magistrates, was presented

18. Ibid., June 22, 1887.

19. Special recruit classes were started under the Regimental Sergeant Major and were a regular feature of future years. R.O. September 23, 1889.

to Lieutenant-Colonel Holmes.²⁰ It called for the troops to do duty at Wellington where a miners strike threatened to get beyond the control of the local authorities. Holmes ordered out detachments of "C" Battery and the Brigade of Garrison Artillery. A member of the force recorded:-²¹

. . . there were seventy-five men of C Battery, and seventy-five men from the B.C.B.G.A., that is, 150 men all told, not sixty [as reported by the Colonist at the time]. I was there as a gunner, in the B.C.B.G.A.

Three men only in Wellington knew that the militia force had been called out. These men were Mr. Pope, telegraph operator, and son of Dr. Pope, minister of education; Mr. Bryden, manager of the mine; and the Hotel Keeper. Our arrival was a complete surprise to the strikers.

We disembarked at a road crossing about half a mile south of Wellington; a road crossing in the forest. The engine, and the four or five coaches then proceeded empty on to Wellington, while we marched into the town with Colonel Holmes D.A.G. leading. The strikers boo-ed and hooted, but we marched through the town, and down to our train lying at the railway station, where we quartered ourselves that night in the coaches which had brought us from Victoria. We laid boards along the tops of the seats, and put our mattresses on the boards, removing the whole into the station

20. The Daily Colonist Victoria, August 6, 1890. According to this account, Holmes ordered the mobilisation of 30 men from "C" Battery and 30 men, commanded by Captain Quinlan, from the Brigade. Holmes was the force commander. Travel was by special train with "C" Battery joining at Russell station. The men were fed at the Wellington Hotel.

21. P.A.B.C. OBR54, Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment" XVII, p. 6. Inserted "Memorandum of Conversation with Capt. W. J. Twiss, formerly commanding the Kaslo Rifle Co., Kaslo, B.C., March 15, 1935" signed by J. S. Matthews, City Archivist, Vancouver. Twiss was an alderman of Vancouver 1933-34. British Columbia, Journal of the Legislative Assembly 1891, (Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1891) for the proceedings of the select committee enquiry into the causes of the strike.

house the next morning and each morning thereafter.

For the first four or five days the strikers were ugly, but after a week, they gave us no trouble.

No confrontation occurred. Colonel Holmes returned to Victoria on August 10. At that time a small number of the Brigade were relieved by another detachment from Victoria. The Brigade detachment returned to Victoria by rail on August 17. "C" Battery returned at the end of the month.

In the Anglo-Canadian negotiations for shared defence of Esquimalt, Canada had used the presence of "C" Battery as an argument for the reduction of her share of the financial burden, but the Colonial Office had long been doubtful that the Battery was up to the standard required for the proposed new guns and submarine mining equipment.²² In 1892, the Commander of the Canadian Militia, Major General I. Herbert, frankly assessed "C" Battery's role in the defence of Esquimalt as of small value.²³ His solution, which was communicated directly to the Colonial Defence Committee, was to withdraw "C" Battery to Quebec City, accept Royal Marine Artillery for Esquimalt and improve the British Columbia Brigade of Garrison Artillery. A Canadian government proposal based on this solution offered payment of £30,000 toward the cost of the necessary works, the provision of the

22. Mackinnon, "The Imperial Fortresses in Canada:" pp. 298-301.

23. Ibid., p. 302.

Work Point Barracks for the marines and their pay during their service there. These terms were accepted by the British Government, conditional upon a revision after five years, even though the greater part of the financial burden now rested with Britain.²⁴

The British authorities acted swiftly. On August 18, 1893, Lieutenant F. N. Templar and an advance party of 18 all ranks of the Royal Marine Artillery, all additionally trained in submarine mining, arrived in Victoria.²⁵ They were quickly followed by Major H. H. Muirhead, Royal Engineers, who was to supervise the construction of the fortifications, and who had travelled from England via Ottawa where he had discussed the works to be constructed with the Militia Department.²⁶

"C" Battery left Victoria at midnight on August 19, cheered by the Brigade and crowds of citizens.²⁷

24. Ibid., pp. 302-303.

25. Lt. Col. W. Baker-Brown R.E., History of Submarine Mining in the British Army (Chatham: Royal Engineers Institute, 1910), pp. 79-80. The Marines were trained at the School of Military Engineering at Chatham. P.R.O. ADM 201/44, Deputy Adjutant General Royal Marines to Admiralty 9 September 1891, 7 July 1892, Nominal roll dated 26 February 1894; The Daily Colonist [Victoria], August 19, 1893.

26. P.R.O. ADM 201/44, War Office to Colonial Office July 26, 1893. Muirhead was in Victoria on September 7, 1893.

27. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], August 19, 20, 1893. Major Peters, the Battery Commander, remained in Victoria as D.A.G. vice Holmes.

With the departure of the first garrison of Canadian regular troops from Victoria, the British Columbia Brigade of Garrison Artillery was left on the threshold of a new phase in its history. It had reached a level of training some years previously from which it was impossible to make any major improvement without considerable support from outside. "C" Battery had been unable, through circumstances beyond its control, to provide all the assistance that the Brigade needed. Now there was an advance party of regular British troops at Esquimalt and new armament and fortifications of a most modern design were planned.

Chapter 4

PARTICIPATION IN IMPERIAL DEFENCE

The last years of the nineteenth century were years of great improvement in the defences of Esquimalt and Victoria. The most modern weapons were deployed, demanding a high standard of technical training for the troops who would man them in time of war. The militia gunners of Victoria were able to achieve this high level of training through the assistance of the British garrison. The improvement was not only in the technical aspects of gunnery but also in general military efficiency. This new level of capability would allow a competent detachment of trained soldiers to be rapidly mobilised from among the militiamen for active service in an overseas war without any serious detraction from the ability to man the defences of Esquimalt and Victoria when called upon to do so.¹

In accordance with General Herbert's plan for strengthening the militia committed to the defences, the Brigade underwent a reorganisation in May 1893. It was renamed the British Columbia Battalion of Garrison Artillery,

1. George F. Stanley, Canada's Soldiers (Toronto: Macmillan, 1960), pp. 277-289, for a brief account of the Canadian participation in the Boer War, including its significance. Margaret A. Ormsby, British Columbia: a History (Vancouver: Macmillan, 1971), pp. 327-8, for a summary of reaction to the war in B.C.

given a larger establishment of 30 officers and 593 other ranks, and an organisation of 5 Companies.² The Batteries in Victoria were renumbered 1, 2, and 3 Companies and the New Westminster Battery, 4 Company. The fifth company was raised in Vancouver in January, 1894.³ The New Westminster Company could not accept the loss of its seniority in the renumbering. This, together with other dissatisfactions, led to its disbandment from September 1894 to April 1895.⁴

On January 24, 1894, Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney formally opened the new drill hall on Menzies Street for the Victoria Companies. A large crowd watched the ceremonies and enjoyed the promenade concert given afterwards by the new Battalion band.⁵

Two months later, on March 29, 1894, the main party of 55 Royal Marines arrived in Victoria.⁶ They had travelled across Canada by the Canadian Pacific Railway and were soon

2. M.G.O. April 7, 1893; R.O's. May 10, September 14, 15, 1893.

3. P.A.B.C. OBR54, Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment" XVIII, pp. 6, 7, 10, 11.

4. M.G.O. September 8, 1894, disbandment; M.G.O. April 13, 1895, reformed. Continuity of service from 1855 as an artillery unit was broken.

5. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], January 25, 1894.

6. P.R.O. ADM 201/44, Secretary Admiralty to D.A.G. Royal Marines July 7, 1893, Nominal roll February 5, 1894, Report of Journey by rail across Canada 20-3-94, Memo 694/94 February 3, 1894, List of married men March 14, 1894, D.A.G. Royal Marines to Director of Transport March 22, 1894.

followed by a detachment of 20 Royal Engineers of 18 Fortress Company, Halifax, which was to supervise and assist a largely unskilled, locally recruited, civilian labour force which was to demolish the old earthworks and build new concrete and earth forts to house the new armament.

The Marine artillerymen were soon helping with the training of the Battalion. In August a School of Artillery was established which scheduled two courses annually of three months and one month duration for grade A and grade B certificates of competence.⁷ Evening instruction took place at the drill hall and Saturday afternoon drill at Work Point barracks. The first short course began in September and was completed by six officers, eight non-commissioned officers and twenty-one gunners who all earned B certificates.⁸ Major General Herbert saw this course at work in December. The Daily Colonist reported:-⁹

. . . he was exceedingly well pleased with what he saw of the work of the battalion. The three classes he then saw at work were the infantry, under Sergeant Boyd, the repository, Sergeant Carleton, and two gun detachments, Sergeant-Major Porter--the instructors mentioned being those from the Royal Marine Artillery whose well directed efforts have made the school such a very decided success.

7. M.G.O. August 11, 1894.

8. M.G.O. January 26, 1895. Lt. F. B. Gregory, a future C.O., achieved an outstandingly high average of 92.6%.

9. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], December 16, 1894. Repository drill or exercise, was essential to coast artillerymen to enable damaged guns to be removed, replaced or remounted quickly in action. The very heavy weights moved and the simple tackle called for considerable practice.

On a subsequent A grade course the following spring, seven Second Lieutenants earned certificates.¹⁰ These courses, and those that followed in later years were largely responsible for the considerable improvement in the Battalion's general military efficiency.

The militia gunners of Victoria had always spent many hours in rifle practice and competition. The sound weapon training provided by the Marines and the issue of new Martini-Henry rifles in January 1896 to replace the Long Snider, boosted the level of marksmanship.¹¹ The number of Battalion competitions increased with a plethora of cups, shields and money prizes to encourage participation. From this time the gunners began to regularly produce teams of marksmen and a surprising number of exceptional riflemen in Provincial, Dominion and Imperial rifle competition meetings.

When the Battalion participated in ceremonial events, a new competence was recognisable. The press reports of such occasions as the annual military parade and sham fight on Beacon Hill in celebration of the Queen's birthday, and the Dominion Day parades in either Victoria or Vancouver,¹²

10. M.G.O. July 20, 1895. Lt. Gregory was again outstanding with 93.16%.

11. The Sniders had been used since 1873. The new rifles were modified before issue to take the new cordite, smokeless cartridge. They were used in practice up to 600 yards. The Martini-Henry was replaced by the Lee Enfield at the end of 1898.

12. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], June 30, 1896, for example.

were no longer critical, but made favourable comparison between the Battalion and the marines and sailors of the Royal Navy.

The field day on May 27, 1896, which was to have been the biggest military display that Victorians had ever seen, was marred by the disaster at Point Ellice Bridge. Many prospective spectators were drowned when the bridge collapsed under a fully laden tramcar heading for the display area on Macaulay Point. The parade was dismissed. Some of the Battalion, now retitled the 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery,¹³ helped in recovery operations at the bridge.

The regiment had grown to six companies by the end of 1896, equally divided between Victoria and Vancouver.¹⁴ The increase in the number of mainland companies and their physical separation from headquarters in Victoria made their command and coordination increasingly difficult and a rapid and efficient mobilisation in any emergency doubtful. To improve matters the Regiment was reorganised in two battalions centred on Victoria and Vancouver, each with its own Commanding Officer. Regimental Headquarters remained in Victoria, with Lieutenant-Colonel Prior in overall command.¹⁵

13. M.G.O. December 28, 1895.

14. P.A.B.C. OBR54, Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment" XVIII, p. 17.

15. M.G.O. July 31, 1897.

The Regiment had become the largest of any in the Permanent Force or Active Militia of Canada.

A Regimental Order by Lieutenant-Colonel Prior on June 28, 1898, began:-

Authority having been granted by the honourable the Minister of Militia and Defence for the Regiment as an armed force to accept the kind invitation of the Citizens of Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. to visit them on 4 July next the following orders will be carried out:-

Both Battalions of the Regiment took part in this unique occasion, spending the whole day in Seattle. The well disciplined ranks in white helmets, pipe clayed belts and blue uniforms, carrying rifles and marching behind their excellent band, with Lieutenant-Colonel Prior, mounted, at the head of the parade, surprised and pleased the citizens of Seattle who did not hesitate to express their admiration.

The military bearing of the Regiment also brought compliments from more discerning eyes. Lord William Seymour, General Officer Commanding Halifax and Imperial forces in Canada, inspected the Victoria Battalion in October, 1898. He later wrote of the ". . . very smart . . . well drilled"¹⁶ militia at Victoria, ". . . a very different looking lot to our Halifax friends and British to the core."¹⁷

A month later the Regiment proved that it was competent in gunnery too when it fired the newly mounted

16. Mackinnon, "The Imperial Fortresses in Canada:" p. 311.

17. Ibid.

6-inch guns at Macaulay Point and Fort Rodd Hill for the first time. It was the climax to individual training on the guns, on ancillary equipment such as the Depression Range Finder,¹⁸ and in army signalling under the supervision of the Royal Marine Artillery. Towed targets were engaged. The General Officer Commanding the Militia, now Major General E. T. M. Hutton, later wrote to the Regiment of his ". . . gratification at the excellent report forwarded on their practice with the 6" B.L. guns, modern armament carried out upon the 5th instant."¹⁹

The plans for the defence of Esquimalt and Victoria had been steadily developed since the arrival of the British garrison in 1893. The standard of defence had been confirmed at the level for repulsion of cruiser attack.²⁰ Equipment trials and development in England and a report from Esquimalt by Major Muirhead and Lieutenant Boothby, Royal Navy²¹ had resulted in a defence plan which included as its

18. This instrument when laid on the target recorded the range to it by using the angle subtended between the target and the true horizon of an elevated battery. Previously range had been estimated by eye. The D.R.F. allowed accurate engagement of moving targets at considerably greater ranges.

19. Battalion Order, December 2, 1898.

20. P.R.O. CAB 5/1, 7968, Memorandum on the Standard of Defence at Esquimalt, Secret, Intelligence Department, War Office, May 24, 1903, p. 4.

21. P.R.O. CAB 11/27, 7968, Report on Electric Lights and Quick-firing Guns, By Major Muirhead, R.E., and Lieutenant Boothby, R.N. March 30, 1896.

main elements:-²²

Coast Artillery Batteries.

Signal Hill	Two 9.2-inch B.L. guns.
Rodd Hill	Two 6-inch disappearing guns. One 6-inch disappearing gun. Two 12-pounder Q.F. guns.
Macaulay Point	Three 6-inch disappearing guns.
Black Rock	Two 12-pounder Q.F. guns.
Duntze Head	Two 6-pounder Q.F. guns.
Minefield.	

59 mines of various sizes, both electro contact and observation types, at the entrance to Esquimalt harbour.

Electric Lights.

One at Rodd Hill and two at Duntze Head.

Land Defence Force.

Combined force of infantry, artillery and engineers to protect the coastal defences.

The British authorities considered that the Royal Marine Artillery at Esquimalt should be replaced by a larger mixed force of Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers to provide an administratively and technically self contained garrison. It was expected that the local militia would supplement this garrison, manning some of the guns, undertaking some duties with the minefield, and providing the majority of the land defence force. A new ten year agreement of shared responsibility for the defences, based on these tactical plans was signed by the Dominion and Imperial governments during 1899.²³

Reorganisation of the militia and the garrison to fit

22. Ibid., Remarks by the Colonial Defence Committee, March 15, 1898, Secret, Esquimalt, British Columbia Defence Scheme, Revised to January, 1902.

23. Mackinnon, "The Imperial Fortresses in Canada:" p. 307.

the new plan followed. The Victoria Battalion was retitled the 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery with six smaller companies all in Victoria.²⁴ The Vancouver Battalion became the 6th Battalion of Rifles with the role of infantry defence of the fortifications.²⁵ On September 29, 1899, 19 Company Royal Garrison Artillery²⁶ replaced the Royal Marine Artillery who were given a tremendous send off by the citizens of Victoria and the militia gunners who presented them with an inscribed loving cup as a mark of their appreciation.²⁷ 48 Company (Submarine Miners) and half of 44 Company followed to complete the garrison.²⁸

In the midst of these changes the Dominion government called for volunteers for war service in South Africa where the British Army was fighting the Boers. The call appeared in Regimental Orders on October 16, 1899. Six days later one officer and twenty-five other ranks, all

24. M.G.O. July 26, 1899; R.O's. October 7, November 22, 1899. Lt. Col. Prior retired. He later became Premier of B.C., 1902-3, and Lieutenant-Governor from 1919 until his death in 1920.

25. M.G.O. July 26, 1899.

26. The Company strength was 140, very few of whom were married. They had their own 18 piece band. The present descendent of this Company is 76 (Maude's) Med. Bty. R.A.

27. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], September 29, 1899. The cup is today in the Royal Marines Officers Mess, Eastney, England.

28. Ibid., May 26, 1900. 44 Company R.E. were to man the electric lights and provide skilled tradesmen to maintain buildings and equipment.

militia gunners, selected from a larger number who had volunteered, and equipped with the best the Regiment could provide, sailed from Victoria wharf to the cheers of their comrades.²⁹ The detachment was combined with others from the province to form half of A Company, 2nd Battalion (Special Service) Royal Canadian Regiment.

The Canadians fought their first major battle on February 18, 1900 at Paardeberg Drift on the Modder River. During a day of exposure to Boer rifle fire thirty men of the Battalion were killed and sixty-nine wounded. Four former members of 5th Regiment were among the dead. A fifth, Captain Blanchard, died of wounds in a separate action a little later.³⁰ After Paardeberg, the Battalion, as part of 19 Brigade of the British forces, took part in the advance to Pretoria. A Company returned to Canada in October 1900, and was disbanded in Halifax.³¹ In small groups and individually the volunteers returned to Victoria to an enthusiastic welcome.

29. Ibid., October 22, 23, 1899, includes an individual description of each volunteer from Victoria. The officer was Capt. Blanchard, the Regiment's adjutant, a bachelor and veterinary surgeon.

30. W. Hart-McHarg, From Quebec to Pretoria (Toronto: William Briggs, 1902), pp. 230-1. The author was a sergeant in A Company.

31. Canada, Department of Militia and Defence, Supplementary Report, Organisation, Equipment, Despatch and Service of the Canadian Contingents during the War in South Africa 1899-1900, (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1901).

In addition to the detachment several members of the Regiment volunteered individually for service in various units as they were formed in Canada. Some of these men served with their units in South Africa, others like those of A Company of the 3rd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment, served in Canada until their units were disbanded.³²

While militia gunners in South Africa marched to Pretoria, the Regiment in Victoria continued to train for its role in the defence of Esquimalt and Victoria. The first mobilisation of the Esquimalt fortress took place on September 2, 3, 1900. The Regiment marched into camp at Macaulay Point on September 1 and was joined there by the 6th Regiment Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles from Vancouver.³³ The Regiment provided six detachments for the 6-inch guns, manned 13-pounder field guns in support of the 6th Regiment, sent 5 Company to work with the Royal Engineer submarine miners and carried out infantry duties in close protection of the coast batteries using the Maxim machine guns in the forts.³⁴ The mobilisation was successful in most respects but a failure for 5 Company where there was general

32. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], February 13, March 18, 1900; R.O's. March 9, April 9, 1900; Mackinnon, "The Imperial Fortresses in Canada:" pp. 524-5. A Company was retained at Work Point barracks until the Battalion was disbanded September 29, 1902.

33. Formerly 6th Battalion of Rifles. The new title was awarded in May 1900.

34. R.O's. August 18, 28, September 1, 2, 1900.

dissatisfaction with their role in submarine mining. The following month the Company reverted to normal artillery training and later the Dominion agreed to pay for a small increase in the Royal Engineers to replace them.³⁵

By the end of the first year of the new century, the defences of Esquimalt and Victoria were very near a peak of efficiency. The most modern weapons of coast defence were available and, with few exceptions, had been installed. The militia gunners of Victoria, who would in time of war man these defences, had achieved a high standard of training in their role. They were familiar with both the skills and techniques of infantry, the deployment of artillery in support of infantry, and the most advanced form of gunnery of the time, coast artillery gunnery. Their ranks contained a strong nucleus of men who had recently experienced war as infantrymen in South Africa. This combination of diversity of military skills and war experience, supplemented by a continuing close association with the well trained British garrison and regular practice with the most modern equipment and techniques, was probably unique for any regiment of the Canadian militia of the period.

35. R.O. October 5, 1900; Mackinnon, "The Imperial Fortresses in Canada;" p. 308. Major difficulties for the Company were the high technical skill requirement, particularly for electricians, and the mandatory annual three week camp.

Chapter 5

THE YEARS BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery had begun the twentieth century in fine style at a high level of efficiency. In the years before the First World War it would acquire a new independence with increased responsibilities, and have its ability and discipline tested on duty in aid of the civil power. Throughout the period, the Regiment trained diligently for its role in the defence of Esquimalt and Victoria.

Annual training followed a regular pattern. The training year usually began in October. Courses to improve individual skills with equipments and procedures ran until the new year. The emphasis then shifted to the training of detachments and companies. The climax of the training year came in June or July when the Regiment held its annual camp at Macaulay Point. In the last days of camp live firing practice was conducted with the various guns of the forts and with the 13-pounder mobile armament. Either during or immediately after camp, the Regiment would be ordered to man the forts in accordance with the Defence Scheme for one day. During the training year there would be a series of rigorous annual administrative inspections.

While the Regiment trained hard it did not neglect

its ceremonial duties. It regularly supplied a guard of honour to the Lieutenant-Governor at each opening and closing ceremony of the Legislative Assembly of the province. Whenever notable visitors landed at Victoria, the Regiment paraded to greet them and to be inspected by them. In these early years of the century such visitors included Major-General Sir C. Parsons, General Officer Commanding British Troops in Canada, in May 1902, Sir Frederick W. Borden, Minister of Militia, in September 1905, and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught in September 1913. Periodically, the Regiment paraded outside the province. Detachments took part in the Quebec Centenary celebrations in 1908 and the coronation of King George V in 1911. In 1909, the Regiment made its second, and equally successful, visit to Seattle, this time for the Alaska-Yukon Fair.¹

Military music was an essential part of all ceremonial occasions. Whenever and wherever the Regiment paraded its band accompanied it. Its music was always well received at the parades and at the regular concerts it performed at the drill hall on Menzies Street and in Beacon Hill Park. Saturday night concerts had become an indispensable feature of entertainment in the provincial capital and helped to consolidate the links between the Regiment and the city. When Mr. Finn, the popular bandmaster,

1. Victoria Daily Times, August 31, September 6, 1909.

resigned in 1904, the traditions and standards which he had forged were continued by his successors.²

Early in 1905, the Regiment was given a new establishment which authorised a total strength of 367 all ranks and reduced the six companies maintained to date to three of increased size. The old companies were combined in pairs, in order of seniority, to form the new 1, 2, and 3 Companies.³

The Regiment contributed greatly to the high level of preparedness in the Esquimalt fortress. By 1902, the fortress defence scheme was complete.⁴ All of the coast defence guns, with the exception of the 9.2-inch guns scheduled for Signal Hill,⁵ were in place by that year. Manned by Companies of the Regiment and the British garrison, the guns could engage targets by day to an effective range of 5,000 yards, by batteries or as a single fire unit, with a high degree of accuracy. At night four electric lights placed at Rodd Hill and Duntze Head to cover the minefield at the entrance to the harbour, would illuminate the target

2. R.O. December 3, 1904. Finn resigned at his own request. He was succeeded by Bandmaster Sidney Rogers.

3. M.G.O. May 9, 1905.
 1 Company-Capt. Currie. (13-pounder R.M.L.)
 2 Company-Capt. McConnan. (6-inch)
 3 Company-Maj. Hibben. (6-inch)

4. P.R.O. CAB 11/27, 7968, Secret, Esquimalt, British Columbia Defence Scheme, Revised to January, 1902.

5. These guns had arrived by 1905 and were finally mounted in the summer of 1912 by an R.C.G.A. working party, mainly French Canadians from Quebec, under Capt. Almon.

for the guns. A field defence force of battalion strength, supported by 1 Company with its 13-pounder R.M.L. guns,⁶ and by Royal Engineer detachments, was planned to be initially deployed on Macaulay Plains, Colwood cross roads, Signal Hill, and Sangsters Plains, to meet any enemy assaults on the fortress over the beaches or from inland. The fortress was commanded from a headquarters at Signal Hill, alongside the Fire Command Post for the coast defence batteries. Orders were passed through a telephone network connecting the batteries augmented by heliograph and flag. Sufficient tentage, stores, equipment and ammunition was held in store for the full mobilisation of the fortress. Contracts were held with local merchants for three months supply of rations to be provided at fourteen days notice. Horses, carts and various small boats were earmarked for requisition to meet the garrison's needs. All of these tactical, technical and administrative preparations together constituted a sophisticated, well prepared defence plan. And this plan was rehearsed annually.

In the first years of the century, with Germany an increasing menace to peace in Europe, Britain reviewed her commitment to the defence of Esquimalt. The declining Russian threat in the Pacific finally evaporated with the Russo-Japanese war. In future the Royal Navy would maintain only light forces in the Pacific where the American Navy held

6. Until 1908. After 1910 this was 3 Company's role.

supremacy. The new climate in British-American relationships precluded almost all chance of war between the two countries, and therefore of an attack on Canada. If there was an attack then Esquimalt would be indefensible. Only the contract which existed between Canada and Britain for the maintenance of the defences and naval base at Esquimalt, which could not be broken unilaterally by Britain, prevented the immediate withdrawal of the British garrison.⁷

A tentative offer to take over the Esquimalt defences and naval base had been made by Sir Wilfred Laurier at the 1902 Colonial Conference.⁸ By 1905, the political climate in Canada was such that Laurier could confirm the offer. Laurier's proposal aroused some criticism in Victoria based on article 9 of the confederation agreement,⁹ but this did not prevent the rapid conclusion of an agreement for the handover of the base and defences. The last British troops

7. P.R.O. CAB5/1, 7968, Defence of Canada, Introductory Minute by the First Lord of the Admiralty on the Problem of Canadian Defence; Observations by the Admiralty upon the War Office Memorandum of December 13, 1904, on Defence of Canada, January 6, 1905; Memorandum on the Defence of Canada, The General Strategic Situation, The Foreign Office 19/12/1904; Esquimalt, Strategic Conditions, Draft Memorandum by the Colonial Defence Committee, Secret, No. 347M Draft, May 26, 1905.

8. Mackinnon, "The Imperial Fortresses in Canada:"

9. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], February 20-23, 1905. Under this article it was the duty of the Dominion Government to secure the continued maintenance of the Royal Navy base at Esquimalt.

of the garrison left Victoria for England on May 17, 1906.¹⁰

The standard of defence at Esquimalt was hardly affected by the British withdrawal. Although it was some time before the new Canadian garrison of 5 Company Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery and 3 Fortress Company Royal Canadian Engineers was strong enough to play the full role of its predecessors, it was able to continue the regular maintenance of the guns and forts. 5th Regiment was now sufficiently well trained and numerous to accept the full responsibility for manning the batteries in an emergency.

The high standard of training of the Regiment in the period 1906-1914, when it was commanded first by Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Hall¹¹ and then by Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Currie, was reflected in its outstanding record of successes in Canadian Artillery Association annual competitions. Each year it gained either a first or second prize for general efficiency and either a first or second for gun practice.¹² In 1911, Captain J. C. Harris led the Dominion Artillery Association team, which included three other representatives of the Regiment, to victory in coast artillery competition

10. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], May 17, 18, 1906. Some 65 had transferred to Canadian service.

11. Lt. Col. Hall retired in 1909. Later he organised and commanded the 88th Victoria Fusiliers, the first infantry unit in Victoria since the end of the Victoria Rifle Company in 1889. In 1914 he organised the 30th Battalion C.E.F., commanding it when it went overseas.

12. P.A.B.C. OBR54, Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment" XX, p. 18.

for the Prince of Wales Cup against teams of the National Artillery Association of Great Britain.¹³

During this period the Regiment also broadened its training experience by participating in the first large scale exercise of militia units of Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster, which took place in the Colwood area on July 1, 1912. Lieutenant-Colonel Currie gained his first experience of command of a brigade size mixed force of all arms in this exercise.¹⁴

Within a few weeks of the end of its annual camp in 1913, the Regiment was called for duty in aid of the civil power in the Nanaimo area where a strike of coal miners had resulted in violence, rioting and arson.¹⁵ A composite force from the 88th Victoria Fusiliers, 5 Company Royal Canadian Artillery, and 5th Regiment, under the overall command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hall, with Lieutenant-Colonel Currie commanding the Regiment's detachment, landed at the Brechin mine wharf at Nanaimo at 7 a.m. on August 14, having travelled overnight from Victoria by sea.

The first day of operations was spent at Extension where the most serious rioting and arson had occurred. Major W. N. Winsby took his company of the Regiment through the

13. Ibid., XX, pp. 22-26.

14. Ibid., XX, p. 28.

15. The account which follows here is based on a report by Lt. Col. Hall included in P.A.B.C. OBR54, Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment" XX, pp. 28c-45.

mine works and persuaded a number of miners to start cleaning up. After searching the surrounding woods for refugees, feeding them, and returning them to their homes the force returned to Nanaimo.

5th Regiment was then sent to Ladysmith where it was met by a hostile crowd of miners. They refused to cooperate, or to disperse peacefully when asked to do so. Lieutenant-Colonel Currie ordered the troops to load their rifles. Faced by this determination, the crowd began to move. A reluctant shuffle became hurried flight when a rifle was fired. The shot was accidental, but allowed the Regiment to move quickly to gain full control of the town.¹⁶ Patrols were soon on the streets, guards posted, and the civil council reinstated in office under the protection of the troops. The gunners became responsible for law and order at Ladysmith, South Wellington and Extension.

On August 29, the majority of the Regiment were able to return to Victoria, leaving behind a detachment of some 50 men to continue the peacekeeping role. The Regiment was to maintain this detachment for another year. Administrative problems were complicated by the absence of any regulations providing for such prolonged duty in aid of the civil power. But the Regiment was able to easily extend its annual

16. Although Lt. Col. Currie admonished the troops publicly at the time for their carelessness, a persistent story, emanating from men who were in the ranks, and never denied, has it that the shot was prearranged.

training programme to run signalling and gun drill courses at the detachment.

After summer duty at Nanaimo, the start of the Regiment's annual training period was delayed until January 1914. Major W. N. Winsby replaced Lieutenant-Colonel Currie, who, nearing the end of his term of command, had resigned to take command of the 50th Regiment (Highlanders) then forming in Victoria.¹⁷ The usual training courses were augmented by a five week gunnery course at the Royal School of Artillery conducted by 5 Company Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery at Macaulay Point.¹⁸

The Regiment's annual camp began on June 14, 1914. 1 Company were accommodated in the navy yard at Esquimalt and trained on the 12-pounder Q.F. guns at Black Rock. 2 and 3 Companies camped at Fort Macaulay, the former practicing with the 6-inch guns of the fort and the latter with their horse drawn 12-pounder field guns. The gun which had been at Nanaimo for training purposes came down by road with a detachment of 3 Company under Lieutenant K. H. Bovitt, covering the 82 miles in two and a half days.¹⁹ Annual

17. M.G.O. January 27, 1914; R.O's. January 9, 28, 1914. The subsequent career of General Sir Arthur Currie is recounted in many books and articles and in Hugh M. Urquhart Arthur Currie: The Biography of a Great Canadian (Toronto: Dent, 1950).

18. Regimental Archives, File of official correspondence 1914.

19. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], June 16, 1914, for an account of this march. The Regiment first used horses to pull its mobile guns at camp in 1913.

training camp ended on June 29, after two days of successful competitive artillery practice.

When the Regiment marched out of its annual camp in June 1914, there were probably few in its ranks who realised that it was also marching out of an era. The last decade of peace had seen the Regiment acquire a new independence in its responsibility for the defence of Esquimalt and Victoria. Its standards of discipline and military training had stood it in good stead while performing duties in aid of the civil power in the Nanaimo coalfields. Its operations there were a classic example of the prompt and effective application of minimum force to remedy an ugly situation. The Regiment could march proudly on its record. Soon the military bearing and skill of its members would face a sterner test.

Chapter 6

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne, was assassinated whilst on a visit to Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital. Ten days later, Austria declared war on Serbia. The major powers of Europe were drawn inexorably into the conflict. When Britain's ultimatum to Germany, demanding the withdrawal of invading German troops from Belgian soil, was ignored, the main lines of battle were completed with Britain, France and Russia opposing Germany and Austria. The British commitment drew all countries of the Empire, including Canada, into the fray.

The greatest threat to the coastal towns and harbours of British Columbia came from the activities of cruisers of the German Pacific Squadron concentrated at the German owned Caroline Islands on August 4, 1914. On the declaration of war, Admiral von Spee, the commander of the German squadron, despatched the light cruiser Emden to raid commerce in the Indian Ocean and sailed with two other light cruisers, Nurnberg and Leipzig, and two heavy cruisers, Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, for the coast of Chile. On the way, the squadron attacked many of the allied South Pacific islands, causing much damage. Joined by the light cruiser Dresden off Easter Island, the squadron met and destroyed a British cruiser

squadron of three ships off Coronel, Chile on November 1, 1914. Retribution was exacted by the Royal Navy off the Falkland Islands on December 8, when Admiral Sturdee's squadron, which included two battle cruisers, surprised the German ships and sank all except the Dresden, which escaped only to be sunk on March 4, 1915, off the Juan Fernandez Islands when caught by H.M.S. Glasgow. The sinking marked the end of the German cruiser menace in the Pacific Ocean.¹

The German navy continued its offensive against British sea trade and lines of communication with the use of merchant cruisers and submarines. The capability of these vessels, particularly that of submarines, assumed mythological dimensions in the civilian mind, encouraged by widespread and dramatic reports of sinkings in the Atlantic, particularly that of the Lusitania on May 8, 1915. Victorians expected and feared the operation of German submarines between Vancouver Island and the mainland.² The coast defences of Victoria and Esquimalt were constantly alert for signs of raiding enemy vessels, but it is extremely doubtful that there was ever any serious threat to the two ports, or to shipping in the area, from the German navy after the defeat of its Pacific cruiser squadron.

1. G. N. Tucker, The Naval Service of Canada (Ottawa: King's Printer, 1952), I, Chapter XII, for R.C.N. activities.

2. Margaret A. Ormsby, British Columbia: a History (Vancouver: Macmillan, 1971), p. 382.

On July 29, 1914, six days before Britain led the Empire into the war, the Dominion government received a warning from London to adopt a precautionary state of defence in view of the worsening international situation.³ When the message was received in Victoria, the 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery acted promptly, but steadily, to bring the Esquimalt fortress to a state of readiness in accordance with the defence scheme first formulated in 1902 and rehearsed regularly since. On August 2, four officers and 54 men were selected from volunteers for duty at Esquimalt. Next day another working party of one officer and 51 men reported for duty at Work Point Barracks. On August 4, the day that Britain's ultimatum to Germany expired, the remainder of the Regiment, including those on civil aid duty at Nanaimo, mobilised at Work Point Barracks.⁴ Regimental Headquarters was established in the barracks and the Companies were dispersed among the various gun batteries of the fortress.⁵ Thus from the beginning of the war the Esquimalt fortress coast defence batteries were operational.

3. Colonel G. W. L. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1967), I, p. 192.

4. R.O. August 5, 1914; Victoria Daily Times, August 2-5, 1914.

5. Batteries were manned:

1 Company.	Major R. Angus.	Black Rock and Duntze Head.
2 Company.	Major Woolison.	Fort Macaulay
3 Company.	Major J. C. Harris.	Rodd Hill 12-pounder field guns at Macaulay Plain.
5 Company	R.C.G.A.	Signal Hill.

The guns were of sufficient calibre to adequately match those of the largest German cruiser then in Pacific waters, and were more than adequate for the engagement of any merchant cruiser, or submarine, which might attempt an attack on Esquimalt, or Victoria harbour.

In the early hours of the first day of war, the defences were sorely tried in circumstances which could easily have resulted in tragic disaster.⁶ The morning of August 5, 1914, was a fine one with some heat haze on the waters outside Esquimalt. At about 8 a.m., the government examination boat Malaspina, controlling the entrance to the harbour, approached at speed, signalling urgently. The Signal Sergeant of Black Rock Battery, the examination battery, interpreted the message as "two German cruisers coming". Captain A. E. Craddock, the Battery Commander, identified two specks in the heat haze off William Head through his binoculars, and ordered all batteries to action. The 9.2-inch, 6-inch and 12-pounder guns of the fortress were all trained on the approaching vessels, ready to fire on the first shot from Black Rock Battery. Craddock soon identified the two vessels as submarines. Keeping them under constant observation, he was soon able to see their white ensign and members of the crew on their decks. He ordered

6. The account which follows is based upon that given by Capt. A. E. Craddock in 1933 and recorded in the Regimental Archives. For a navy account see Tucker, The Naval Service of Canada, pp. 283-294.

a signal to be made to them. His Signal Sergeant reported that in response "They are waving their hands sir".

Craddock decided that the two vessels were probably those rumoured at that time to be arriving from Hong Kong, and accordingly allowed them to pass into the harbour, counting on Duntze Head Battery to engage them at close range over open sights at the harbour mouth if necessary. Duntze Head Battery was soon able to confirm the submarines as friendly, and Craddock ordered the ammunition replaced and batteries stood down. The two submarines had been purchased by the province from the United States of America on the personal authority of Premier Sir Richard McBride in cooperation with the naval Commander-in-Chief Esquimalt, to increase the naval strength at Esquimalt.⁷ An enquiry into the incident was conducted by Colonel Ogilvie of the District Staff during the afternoon of August 5, and Premier McBride and Captain Pilcher, the naval commander, found it difficult to justify their action in not notifying the army commanders of their plans.

Canada's intention to raise and equip a force for war service overseas had been announced a few days previous to August 4. With the declaration of war, instructions were issued for the assembly of such a force at Valcartier

7. Ormsby. British Columbia pp. 379-382. H.M.C.S. Rainbow, a cruiser, was the only ship of any size at Esquimalt at this time.

Camp.⁸ Within a few days, a list of volunteers was submitted by the Regiment to Ottawa.⁹ After handing in to stores all but one uniform, a great coat and a set of Oliver equipment for each man, receiving inoculations and being photographed, the volunteers paraded at 10 p.m. on August 26, 1914, to begin their journey overseas.¹⁰ There were five officers and 63 other ranks in the detachment, aged between 18 and 45 years, of whom only eight were married.¹¹ They marched to the Canadian Pacific Railway wharf in Victoria behind the Regiment's band, escorted by their comrades, to sail for Vancouver to the cheers of large crowds of Victorians.¹² They were the first troops to leave the city for overseas service. The Regiment would fill the gaps left in its ranks by their departure from those who were volunteering at the drill hall and recruiting office for war service.

8. Regimental Archives, Telegram, Militia Headquarters Ottawa 6 August 1914, Adjutant General to 5th B.C. Regiment.

9. R.O. August 13, 1914.

10. R.O.'s. August 18, 21, 24, 25, 1914.

11. R.O. August 27, 1914, for a nominal roll of this detachment. Minimum physical requirements for overseas service were: Height 5'7" (gunners) 5'3" (drivers) Chest 34½". In accordance with instructions from Ottawa, every married man had to obtain the written permission of his wife to volunteer for overseas service and submit this to the orderly room before he could be allowed to go. This instruction was rescinded in R.O. August 23, 1915.

12. R.O. August 26, 1914; Victoria Daily Times August 26, 1914.

In the rush to arms in August, the abrupt departure of key personnel from positions in industry and commerce caused some dislocation of the economy of the area. In September, with the immediate urgency over, the Regiment was able to demobilise many of these personnel for a short period of a few days so that they could return to their civilian employment to complete handovers to their replacements.¹³ While this partial demobilisation had a pragmatic, local purpose, it was also the manifestation of a more general adjustment to the prospect of a longer war than had been optimistically forecast in the early days of August.

In the remaining months of 1914, the Regiment adjusted itself to its new circumstances. 3 Company, with its 12-pounder guns, was established at Willows Camp, Victoria, to train field artillery recruits, a recruiting office was staffed in the Pemberton building in the city, and the Regiment improved, and built, accommodation at the various batteries for long term occupation, using skilled tradesmen within its ranks.¹⁴ In November, all of the armament of the fortress and the guns from Willows Camp were fired in service

13. R.Os. September 12, 14, 1914. 73 were granted partial demobilisation on September 14. The guns of the moveable armament company were returned to the drill hall on this date and its horses demobilised. This company was remobilised on September 30, 1914.

14. R.Os. September 30, August 31, November 4, 1914.

practice by the Regiment, now fully recruited.¹⁵

By the early weeks of 1915, the Regiment had settled into the role it was to play for the remainder of the war. The batteries of Esquimalt fortress were manned continually on a shift system. Periodically, requirements for personnel for overseas service would be announced and these were met from among volunteers from the ranks of the Regiment. As these men left, individually or grouped in drafts, their places were taken by volunteer recruits from civilian life who were trained by the Regiment on a wide variety of courses. The Regiment held this combined operational, reinforcement and training role for the remainder of the war.

All of the men who passed from the Regiment to overseas service were absorbed into other units in accordance with the policy established by Colonel the Honourable Sam Hughes, the Minister of Militia, at the outbreak of war. Many of these men would have preferred to leave as part of a complete battery from the Regiment, or as reinforcements for such a battery, or batteries, when established overseas. A suggestion to this effect by Lieutenant-Colonel Winsby was rejected by Ottawa. Some men who would have volunteered for overseas service felt that they could not do so without some

15. Regimental Archives, Letter from Officer Commanding Esquimalt Armament District November 6, 1914. Practice occurred November 10-13, 1914. R.O. November 25, 1914 stopped recruiting until further notice.

guarantee of employment as artillerymen, preferably among comrades and under officers of the Regiment.¹⁶ The situation was ameliorated by the introduction of drafts to artillery ammunition columns, the source of reinforcements for front line artillery units, in the late summer of 1915.

Many drafts were despatched from the Regiment during the war years. Among the most important were those to:-¹⁷

10th Brigade Field Artillery Ammunition Column C.E.F.
 15th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery C.E.F.
 4th Division Ammunition Column C.E.F.
 Remount Depot Army Service Corps.
 67th Overseas Battalion (Western Scots) C.E.F.
 4th Section D.A.C. Depot Canadian Artillery C.E.F.
 68th Depot Battery C.E.F.
 6 Company Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery (St. Lucia,
 West Indies).

These and the despatch of smaller groups and individuals brought the total numbers of overseas drafts to 777 officers and men, of which 55 were killed or died of wounds or other causes, 148 were wounded, 56 were awarded honours and 26 promoted to commissioned rank in the field.¹⁸

Although the Regiment was not allowed to provide a complete unit for overseas service from its ranks, it did

16. Regimental Archives, Company Correspondence October 21, 1914. All ranks of the Belmont Battery expressed their desire to volunteer as part of a battery of the Regiment for overseas service. Similar desires were expressed throughout the Regiment. Only 14 men volunteered from the Regiment as individuals for overseas service when a draft was called for at this time.

17. R.Os. 1914-18.

18. Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment" XXII, pp. 5-18.

supply the Commanding Officer and a core of personnel for the formation of the 47th Infantry Battalion, a unit formed for overseas service in March 1915 in Vancouver. Lieutenant-Colonel Winsby was appointed to command the new Battalion.¹⁹ He took with him 55 men from the Regiment, selected from a much larger number of volunteers who wished to serve with their Colonel overseas.²⁰

^{when?} Major R. Angus replaced Winsby as Commanding Officer of the 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Garrison Artillery.²¹ He was to command for the remainder of the war.

In March 1917, the Regimental Headquarters moved from Work Point Barracks to occupy the new armoury on Bay Street, Victoria.²² The building soon became the administrative centre for the Regiment where the band and quartermaster stores were housed. In the last years of the war, many volunteers and conscripted men underwent their first experience of army life within its walls.

The organisation of the defences on Vancouver Island

19. R.O. February 8, 1915.

20. R.O. March 6, 1915.

21. R.O. March 1, 1915. Angus was granted the rank of temporary Lt. Col.

22. R.O. March 26, 1917. The new armoury had been planned as a modern headquarters, drill hall, and recreation centre for all Victoria's peace time militia units, by several officers of the pre-war years, including Lt. Col. Currie. The architect, W. Ridgeway Wilson, was a Lt. Col. in the Corps Reserve of officers attached to 5th Regiment.

was adjusted in several respects in the last months of 1917. Guards maintained by the 50th Regiment (Gordon Highlanders of Canada) at Bamfield cable station, Pachena, Sidney Camp, Esquimalt oil tanks and Esquimalt dry dock were first attached to the Regiment and later absorbed into its ranks.²³ The increase in the Regiment's responsibilities which this entailed was offset in December by the curtailment of manning duties at Duntze Head and Belmont Batteries.²⁴ From the first day of the new year, the Regiment assumed an unusual water-borne role by providing the crew for the launch Leila, plying regularly between the ordnance wharf in Esquimalt harbour and Fort Rodd Hill, and occasionally towing practice targets for the batteries.

The final live firing practices of the war were conducted from Black Rock, Duntze Head and Signal Hill in the first six months of 1918. The Regiment fired its last shot of its war-time mobilisation on June 25, 1918, from Duntze Head Battery.²⁵ On August 14, 1918, with only five days notice, the Regiment was demobilised.²⁶

The last five days of the Regiment's war service were ones of hectic administrative activity. Some men were

23. R.O.'s. September 10, October 1, November 1, 1917. 67 men of the 50th were transferred.

24. Manning of these batteries ceased December 31, 1917. R.O. December 28, 1917.

25. R.O. June 24, 1918.

26. 11 M.D. Order 774, 8-8-18; R.O. August 10, 1918.

demobilised. Others who were to continue to serve were attached to 5 Company Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery, 3 Fortress Company Royal Canadian Engineers, 21 Company Canadian Army Service Corps, 11th Battalion Canadian Garrison Regiment, and 11 Military District Headquarters, according to their current duties.²⁷ All armaments, ammunition and stores of the Esquimalt fortress were transferred to 5 Company Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery.²⁸ On August 15, 1918, in a final act, the band was demobilised and Lieutenant-Colonel Angus and Orderly Room Sergeant R. D. Maclachlan were transferred to the staff of 11 Military District. They were the last of the 1,110 who had mobilised with the Regiment through the war years.

The Regiment's role in these years had not been a glamorous one. No stirring action had been fought by the batteries of the Esquimalt fortress. The Regiment, as a unit, had been confined to years of static, routine, ward duty by its coast defence role, the absence of enemy attack and the mobilisation policies of the time. If a German naval attack had been made on Esquimalt or Victoria, the coast defence batteries would have been ready and able to meet it. Meanwhile, the Regiment could, and did, supply regular drafts of trained men from its ranks to the fighting front in Europe.

27. R.O's. August 10, 14, 1918.

28. R.O. August 17, 1918.

Men who had received their basic military training in the Regiment were to be found overseas in every rank from private soldier to the Commander of the Canadian Corps in France, Lieutenant-General Sir A. W. Currie, and in a wide variety of units. They and those of the Regiment who did duty at Esquimalt gave the Regiment a war record of which it could be justly proud.

Chapter 7

TWO DECADES OF PEACE

Between the First and Second World Wars there were two decades of peace for the Canadian militia. For the majority of these years the Canadian public was generally indifferent toward military affairs. Compounding the difficulties which this attitude produced for the militia was the desire of governments to cut military spending to the absolute minimum. The Regiment, like others in the militia, would survive these difficult years of apathy and frugality to answer the call to duty in the Second World War, but it would not survive unscathed.¹

When the Regiment was demobilised on August 15, 1918, it was unable to return immediately to its pre-war organisation and routine. It was not at all clear which of the two Lieutenant-Colonels on the Regiment's rolls, Winsby or Angus, was the rightful Commanding Officer. Wartime expansion had almost tripled the pre-war strength of officers. Many of the Non-commissioned officers held their rank "for service

1. Col. C. P. Stacey, Six Years of War (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1967), I, and James Eayrs, In Defence of Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1964-5), 2 Volumes, provide a good background for this period.

during mobilisation and subject to reversion,"² and there was doubt about the status of other ranks still on the Regiment's rolls. The Regiment's plight was not uncommon among non-permanent militia units. A general reorganisation was needed.

The Department of Militia, acting on the recommendations of the Otter committee on militia reorganisation, ordered reorganisation of the Regiment in 1920.³ A Commanding Officer was selected, after consultation with all officers of the unit, with regard for war service, previous militia service and qualifications.⁴ Captain F. A. Robertson D.S.O. was appointed on April 28, 1920. He was charged with responsibility for selecting a new slate of officers for the Regiment, using the same criteria by which he himself was selected. Robertson's task, in his own words, "was no small one."⁵ It was completed on February 1, 1921, when the

2. A qualification which appeared regularly in R.O's. during the war. A parallel situation existed among officers, many of whom held one rank on the regimental roll and another C.E.F. rank. Perhaps the most extreme example was Brig. Gen. R. P. Clark C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C., who was a Captain on the Regiment's rolls.

3. Maj.-Gen. Sir William D. Otter's committee was convened in April 1919. For an account of its work with the artillery see Colonel G. W. L. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1967) II, pp. 3-5.

4. C.E.F. Routine Order No. 2356, January 10, 1920, contained regulations governing reorganisation. Quoted in P.A.B.C. OBR54, Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment" XXV, pp. 1-4.

5. P.A.B.C. OBR54, Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment" XXV, p. 4.

Regiment was disbanded "for the purpose of reorganisation,"⁶ and reorganised the same day.

The new Regiment was smaller than its pre-war ancestor, having only two coast artillery companies. Attached to it for administration were 58 Field Battery, 12 Siege Battery and an Anti-Aircraft Section.⁷ These three, while under command in peace time, had a separate mobilisation role. The Anti-Aircraft Section, one of three in the militia, was not recruited immediately. Colonel Robertson preferred to wait until sufficient recruits had been obtained for the remainder of the Regiment.

In the immediate post-war years it was particularly difficult to attract recruits. Robertson commented:-

. . . the natural reaction from the war seems to have left the public mind afflicted with unusual apathy towards anything and everything of a military nature . . . When recruits were asked to join the 5th Regiment after its reorganisation a number of old members of course rejoined and a few men enlisted

6. M.G.O. April 1, 1921.

7. M.G.O. April 15, 1921. 58th Battery on mobilisation would become part of 15th Brigade C.F.A. The Battery was formed on April 1, 1916, at Fredericton, N.B. It sailed from Halifax on August 11, 1916, and saw service on the Loos front from September 5, 1917, until the armistice. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], September 1, 1968 for a personal account of the Battery's last 100 days of war. 12th Siege Battery was formed from reserves at Whitley Camp, England on January 1, 1918. Although it included men from every province and some Americans, the majority were from 9th Siege Battery, St. Johns, Newfoundland. It served in France from June 1918 until the armistice, suffering severe casualties at Cambrai from counter battery fire, air and gas attack. It returned to Canada in May 1919 to be demobilised at Willows Camp, Victoria on May 15. P.A.B.C. OBR 54, Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment" XXIII, XXIV.

but the numbers were at first so few that it was impossible to carry on successful training in all the Batteries, with the result that the Regiment did not go to Camp in the summer of 1921.⁸

During the winter months, a successful swimming gala at the armoury pool, a series of well attended entertainments, Saturday night dances at the armoury, free to men in uniform, and regular band concerts advertised the Regiment and brought in some recruits, but the target of 50 men per battery by March 1922 was not achieved. However enough did join for the Regiment to hold its first post-war annual training camp in the summer of 1922.

The Regiment's recruiting difficulties in these early years were symptomatic of its experience until 1939. The post-war apathy toward things military; the popular belief that the First World War had ended all war, and the Depression, led many of the public to see the militia as a waste of money and militia service as a waste of time. Men in uniform were jeered.⁹ Even if a potential recruit was prepared to come forward, service in the Regiment had lost much of its attraction. There were fewer paid drills and much shorter camps for fewer men than pre-war. The equipment was obsolete and ammunition scarce. The smart blue uniform of pre-war issue now had to be purchased. All of these factors working

8. P.A.B.C. OBR54, Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment" XXV, p. 6.

9. Interview with Lt. Col. M. A. Kent.

against the Regiment's attempts to recruit were given added importance by the need to compete for recruits with more militia units in Victoria than had existed pre-war. The Regiment was never able to recruit more than 200 to its ranks, about half its pre-war strength, before the start of the Second World War.

Government frugality in the inter-war years forced the Regiment to depend upon its own funds and resources for much of its needs. These funds were maintained by contributions from officers and men and by generous donations from former officers and friends of the Regiment. All officers on the Regimental roll regularly contributed all their drill and camp pay, and many other ranks did the same. The funds were used to subsidise the various messes and to pay for a variety of goods and services. Account books of the time show expenditure on such things as small bore target rifles, rifle ammunition, targets, the purchase of extra food to feed above quota, but essential men at camp, travelling expenses, and the purchase of an old truck to transport personnel to Heal's rifle range, some ten miles from Victoria for regular practice. The Regiment was supported by the local business community through gifts, credit, and reduced prices. By 1925, the Regiment's messes in the armoury were comfortably furnished and its funds were in a healthy state.¹⁰ Local

10. Regimental Archives, Minutes of Officer's Mess Meetings, Various Regimental account books, 1921-38. In one year, in 1931, the Officer's Mess received gifts and

business support and the habit of donation and subscription established in these early years, continued until the Second World War, and helped to counter government parsimony.

After its first annual camp in 1922, the Regiment settled to an annual training cycle which was very similar to that of the pre-war years. The cycle began with individual training, was followed by detachment and battery training, and climaxed with annual camp. The amount of training which could be done depended upon the annual allotment of drills. Financial restriction kept these to a minimum. Training standards inevitably suffered, even though many continued to attend evening drills without pay. The restrictions placed on annual camps had a most serious effect.

The two coast artillery companies suffered least. Their camp and guns were a permanent part of the defences of Esquimalt and they could move there with little expense. Nevertheless their camps were shorter than the pre-war ten days. The greatest restriction occurred in 1933 when only four days camp for a total of 105 personnel were allowed. Competitive firing practice took place using the less expensive 12-pounder Q.F. guns rather than the heavier armament.

58 Field Battery and 12 Siege Battery were more

donations to a total value of \$1260. The inventory value of the mess in that year was \$6000. Much of this inventory is still present today.

severely affected. Both went to camp as complete batteries in 1922, 58 Battery to Sarcee Camp, near Calgary, and 12 Battery to Macaulay Point. In the following years financial restrictions prevented 58 Battery from sending anything more than a small detachment to Sarcee. In 1924 this amounted to only its officers and ten men. In camp the detachment would combine with others to fire a severely limited allotment of ammunition from guns provided there. From 1931 to 1934 camp was cancelled completely. 12 Siege Battery fired one of its two 8-inch howitzers out to sea from Macaulay Point in 1922 and 1924, but then it too was limited to small detachments for camp at Sarcee. There the lucky few could only practice with the smaller 4.5-inch howitzers and very restricted amounts of ammunition.¹¹

Determination and local initiative on the part of officers of the Regiment did, to some extent, circumvent the restrictions to give men the experience of camp and live firing practice. An unofficial camp, financed from Regimental funds, was arranged at Macaulay Point for 12 Siege Battery in 1924 when no camp had been authorised.¹² The Battery was even able to fire one of its howitzers. Between 1931 and 1934 a number of men from 58 and 12 Batteries were

11. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada II, pp. 23-44 for the general situation in the Canadian Artillery.

12. P.A.B.C. OBR54, Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment" XXV, p. 14.

able to camp with the coast artillery gunners and take part in live firing practice with the 12-pounder Q.F. guns. It was the maximum that could be done by the Regiment to ensure the survival of some gunnery training and skills throughout all batteries.

One of Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Harris's early actions on taking command of the Regiment in 1925 was to encourage the formation of the Anti-Aircraft Section. It attracted sufficient recruits for it to be able to hold its first annual camp in 1925, but from the start it was woefully short of equipment. Three guns had been sent to Work Point barracks shortly after the section had been authorised in 1920, but these guns were some of the earliest wartime conversions of field artillery weapons to an anti-aircraft role, and were already obsolete by the end of the war. On the initiative of Lieutenant J. G. Rycroft, an officer of the 5th Heavy Battery Royal Canadian Artillery, one of these converted 13-pounder guns was mounted on a trailer platform for drill purposes at Work Point barracks.¹³ The other two were mounted on concrete pedestals near the coast defence battery at Macaulay Point. The Anti-Aircraft Section used these guns for live firing practice, shooting at gas filled meteorological balloons, about three feet in diameter, released from the gun site, until 1941 when the first modern

13. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada II, Plate 1, for a photograph of this gun.

guns arrived in the area. There was never any height finding or prediction equipment, or even a vehicle to pull the trailer gun. But in spite of the lack of any modern equipment, the Section survived the years with an average strength of about 20 all ranks, becoming 2nd Anti-Aircraft Battery in 1936.¹⁴

In 1928, the Joint Staff Committee, Pacific Coast of Canada,¹⁵ completed a review of the defences of Esquimalt. The Committee envisaged the most likely attacker to be a "trans-Pacific Power"¹⁶ and assessed the upper limits of any probable attack as bombardment by 8-inch gun cruisers, a raiding force of 250 men, and a series of air raids of from one to five aircraft, possibly from carriers.¹⁷

The Committee's report recommended an outer defence of ships and aircraft and an inner defence close to the

14. Ibid., p. 38. In 1936 the Section strength reached 3 officers and 26 other ranks, and in 1937 4 officers and 44 other ranks. Regimental Archives, Drill Pay Lists 1925-37.

15. The Committee members were: Commander P. W. Nelles R.C.N. (S.N.O. Esquimalt), Brig.-Gen. A. G. L. Macnaughton (D.O.C. M.D.11), Lt.-Col. G. R. Pearkes V.C. (G.S.O. M.D.11), Lt.-Col. A. E. Harris R.C.A. (O.C. R.C.A.), Flt. Lt. A. Hull R.C.A.F. (O.C. R.C.A.F. Vancouver).

16. Fort Rodd Archives, Department of National Defence V.S. 101-2-50, Secret, 27.12.28, Defence of Pacific Coast of Canada, Fortress of Esquimalt, Minutes of a Meeting of the Joint Staff Committee, Pacific Coast of Canada, held at Work Point Barracks, on December 24, 1928, Part I, Sections B.C., pp. 12, 18.

17. Ibid., Part III, pp. 14-18.

harbour and naval installations at Esquimalt. Great stress was placed on the need for well sited, adequately equipped, coast artillery batteries of three different types which could engage ships out to 20,000 yards range, considered to be the limit of bombardment range for cruisers. It recommended the use of 9.2-inch guns on modern mountings for a counter bombardment role, modern 6-inch guns for close defence, and twin 6-pounder guns for anti-motor torpedo boat work. A new range finding system was required for the counter bombardment guns, searchlights to illuminate targets for all of the guns by night, and cable communications between all sites.

Many of the Committee's recommendations were eventually adopted, but in 1928 the report was out of step with federal government financial policy and with the priorities of militia headquarters in Ottawa. The federal government was not disposed to increase the militia vote sufficiently to allow for the purchase of new equipment and construction of new defence works, particularly in the years of the Depression of the early thirties.¹⁸ The report discounted any need to prepare defences to meet military aggression from south of the Canadian border. This placed it in conflict with the current military intelligence assessment

18. Eayrs, In Defence of Canada I, pp. 302-319, for an account of this policy and its effects.

of possible threats to Canadian security and with Defence Scheme No. 1, both of which gave priority to defence against possible aggression by the United States of America.¹⁹ The Report of the Joint Staff Committee, Pacific Coast of Canada, was consequently shelved for six years.

In the early weeks of 1932, the Brigade²⁰ became involved in unemployment relief. Its own unemployed members were provided with free lunches, paid for from Brigade funds. Some 500 meals were served between January and May 1932.²¹ With the end of this scheme, the Brigade periodically organised fund raising events in the following years and donated the proceeds to various voluntary relief organisations in Victoria.

These were years when the Brigade found an outlet for much of its energy in sports. Several teams were raised to play basketball, soccer and rugby in local leagues and competitions. Three members of the Brigade were chosen for the All Canada Rugby Team which toured Japan in February

19. *Ibid.*, pp. 73-85 and Document 1: Extracts from "Defence Scheme No. 1," 12 April 1921. Eayrs indicates that this priority stemmed from the fixation of Col. J. Sutherland Brown, Director of Military Operations and Intelligence, on U.S. aggression and that many disagreed with him.

20. The Regiment was retitled 5th B.C. Coast Brigade Canadian Artillery in 1925. At the same time 1 and 2 Companies and 12 Siege Battery became 55, 56 and 12 Heavy Batteries.

21. Regimental Archives, Minutes of Officer's Mess Meetings February 26, April 1, May 13, 1932.

1932.²² The Brigade team won the Cowichan Trophy, the rugby championship of Vancouver Island, for three successive seasons from 1933 to 1935. Each year on Armistice Day, the team played a keenly contested match with the Canadian Scottish for the Fordham-Johnson trophy in front of crowds of spectators from the two units and the general public. From 1932, an athletic sports day was run during annual camp. Inter-Battery competition was supplemented by invitation events when the Brigade teams competed against teams from the navy and from other militia units. These days were always well attended by the general public of Victoria, and soon became an established feature of local life.

In 1935, against a background of eroding international peace, a new government was elected in Canada. The new Prime Minister, Mackenzie King, aware of the trend in international events and aware also of the state of the militia, reversed the stance on militia affairs which he had taken during the twenties and supported increased militia expenditure.²³ But an abrupt change from severe financial restriction to the large expenditure necessary to procure immediate modernisation of the armed forces was not politically desirable or feasible. Canadian rearmament at this time might have been misconstrued abroad, and at home the

22. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], February 23, 1932, for a summary of the tour.

23. Eayrs, In Defence of Canada I, pp. 317-319, II, pp. 134-137.

Depression still reigned and few would see increased militia expenditure as anything but waste.²⁴ About all that could be done was to engineer some increase in the militia vote so that the overhaul of Canada's defences could at least be started.

In February 1937, the money was at last voted by parliament for rearmament to begin.²⁵ Possible aggression by the United States of America was dropped as a contingency of defence planning. The main task for home defence was to strengthen the defences of the Pacific Coast against possible Japanese attack or infringement of Canadian neutrality.²⁶

At Canada's request, the War Office sent Major B. D. C. Treatt, an instructor of the British Coast Artillery school, to advise on the modernisation of the coast defences. His recommendations for Esquimalt were similar to those of the Joint Staff Committee, Pacific Coast of Canada, in 1928. A new plan was made for the defences based on Treatt's report. It included coast defence batteries at Albert Head (three 9.2-inch guns, 35 degree mountings), Mary Hill (three 6-inch guns, 45 degree mountings), Macaulay Point (two 6-inch guns, 15 degree mountings), Belmont (one 6-pounder Duplex), Duntze Head (one 6-pounder Duplex), Black Rock (two 12-pounder Q.F.),

24. Ibid., II, pp. 136-145.

25. Stacey, Six Years of War: I, pp. 11-13, shows how the estimated \$65 million for the first year was reduced to \$36 million.

26. Eayrs, In Defence of Canada II, pp. 213-222.

Golf Hill (two 12-pounder Q.F.), and on Trial Island (two 9.2-inch guns, 15 degree mountings).²⁷ Adequate fire control instruments, range finding equipment and searchlights were also to be provided. Guns and equipment for this Ultimate Plan, as it became known, were ordered from England.

It quickly became clear that with Britain also re-arming long delays in delivery could be expected. An Interim Plan was therefore adopted in 1938. It "made use of existing obsolete and obsolescent equipments pending the arrival from the United Kingdom of the modern type."²⁸ It provided for batteries at Albert Head (two 9.2-inch guns, 15 degree mountings), Mary Hill (three 6-inch guns, 15 degree mountings), Macaulay Point (two 6-inch guns, 15 degree mountings), Belmont (two 12-pounder Q.F.), Duntze Head (one 12-pounder Q.F.), and at Golf Hill (two 12-pounder Q.F.).²⁹

The militia gunners were reorganised in 1936 to provide adequate manning of the new defences. 58 Field Battery was converted to a coast artillery role, renumbered 60 Heavy Battery and joined 55 and 56 Heavy Batteries in 5th

27. Fort Rodd Archives, Department of National Defence (Army) Ottawa, HQS 20-1-12, FD160 (D.M.O. & P.) (OPS 261) Secret, 11 June '46, Review of the Development of the Canadian Coast Artillery Plan 1937-1946.

28. Ibid.

29. Ibid.

B.C. Coast Brigade Royal Canadian Artillery.³⁰ The Brigade and the attached 2nd Anti-Aircraft Battery were to man the Esquimalt fortress on mobilisation.³¹

In 1938, Lieutenant-Colonel V. McKenna was appointed Commanding Officer of the Brigade. He took over a unit which was now better organised for its mobilisation role in the Esquimalt defences, but bore the scars of twenty years of financial restriction and neglect. Its total strength was only about 200 all ranks. Two of the three batteries had many years of experience with the guns of the defences, but neither had fired the heavy armament for some years. There had been no tactical training in coast defence gunnery since the First World War, and no rehearsal of mobilisation of the defences. Although plans existed for the modernisation of the defences, work had yet to start. Mobilisation for the Second World War would soon test the readiness of the Brigade and of the defences. The standard of that readiness would depend on how much could be done in the last year of peace.

30. Report of the Department of National Defence Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1937, Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1937, p. 85; Ibid., March, 1938, p. 65. The title Royal Canadian Artillery was granted to non-permanent militia artillery units in 1935 by His Majesty King George V. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada II, p. 34.

31. The former 12th Siege Battery, now 12th Heavy Battery (Howitzer) remained attached to the Brigade with a separate mobilisation role until it was disbanded on April 30, 1939 and its few remaining members absorbed in the Brigade.

Chapter 8

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

At the beginning of 1938 comprehensive plans existed for the improvement of the Esquimalt defences. Although events soon thwarted hopes for its rapid completion before the outbreak of war, the Interim Plan was completed by the spring of 1941. By the end of that year, when it seemed as though the efficiency of the defences would soon be tested, the Brigade and the defences it manned were ready to meet a sea borne attack. A period of anticipatory vigilance followed until the summer of 1943. Then, as the threat of attack evaporated, the Brigade was gradually reduced in strength until its demobilisation in 1945. Ironically, during this final phase of the war, the defences were improved in accordance with the Ultimate plan.¹

Two major setbacks to the rapid completion of improvements to the defences occurred in 1938. The militia vote for the fiscal year 1938-1939 was reduced to allow a greater proportion of the money available to be allotted to

1. Col. C. P. Stacey, Six Years of War (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1967) pp. 18-48, 145-186; Col. G. W. L. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1967) II, pp. 447-496; and Margaret A. Ormsby, British Columbia: a History (Vancouver: Macmillan, 1971) pp. 469-483, for military and civilian background for this chapter.

the navy for the purchase of destroyers. The growing crisis in Europe, culminating in the Munich conference in September, prompted a shift in priorities for Canadian home defence from the west to the east coast. Artillery equipment intended for Esquimalt was diverted first to Halifax and then, with Canadian agreement, to Sierra Leone, and construction slowed.²

Nevertheless some urgently needed improvements were made to the defences before August 1939. Two modern 6-inch guns were mounted at Macaulay Point. A fortress plotting room was constructed at Fort Rodd Hill. The two 9.2-inch guns were moved from Signal Hill to newly constructed positions at Albert Head, and two modern 6-inch guns were mounted at Mary Hill. Members of 5 B.C. Coast Brigade Royal Canadian Artillery were given priority for the jobs created by the construction programme. There were many who welcomed the opportunity. The Brigade's annual training period, which had been longer and busier than any since 1914, culminated in the proof firing of the 9.2-inch guns by 56 Heavy Battery at Albert Head in July, 1939 at the end of annual camp.³ They made a welcome noise to gunner ears.

2. Stacey, Six Years of War pp. 28-29, 155. James Eayrs, In Defence of Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1964-65) II, pp. 145-153. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada II, p. 450.

3. Report of the Department of National Defence, Canada, for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 1940 Ottawa: King's Printer 1940, pp. 26-27, 37. Details of firing from interview with Maj. F. D. H. Nelson, March 1974.

On August 25, 1939, with the situation in Europe fast deteriorating, a Precautionary Stage of defence was ordered for the militia. Lieutenant-Colonel McKenna was called by telephone at 8.20 a.m. the following morning. By 10.30 a.m. the Brigade staff were at work in the armoury. At a muster parade at 1 p.m., all those present, some 200 all ranks, volunteered for duty. By 4 p.m. the first detachments were on their way to the forts by public or private transport. At the end of the day the forts were reported manned. 55 Heavy Battery (Major B. Kerr) was at Fort Mary Hill (two 6-inch guns) with a small detachment at Black Rock Battery (two 12-pounder Q.F. guns). 56 Heavy Battery (Major S. W. Bowden) was at Albert Head (two 9.2-inch guns), and 60 Heavy Battery (Major Gonnason) at Fort Rodd Hill (two 12-pounder Q.F. guns) with 17 Searchlight Battery (Major J. M. McIntosh).⁴ 2nd Anti-Aircraft Battery, having no guns of its own manned the coast defence guns at Macaulay Point (two 6-inch). The Commanding Officer, now the Fire Commander for the fortress, went to the partially completed plotting room at Fort Rodd Hill with his staff. Detachments of 5 Heavy Battery, the permanent force unit at Work Point barracks, manned the two

4. 17 Fortress Company R.C.E., was converted to 17 Searchlight Battery R.C.A. (C.D.) on May 15, 1939 by a General Order dated April 15, 1939. It initially manned three 90cm, 1924 pattern lights at Fort Rodd and Duntze Head. It was absorbed in the fall of 1943 by the Regiment when coast artillery batteries took over its duties.

12-pounder Q.F. guns at Macaulay Point.⁵

Once the troops were in the forts there was much to be done. Guards and lookouts were posted. Equipment was issued, checked and prepared for action. Supplies and ammunition were received or despatched on a wide variety of civilian and military vehicles throughout the first night and the following days. With the exception of Macaulay, there was no accommodation at any of the forts. Tents had to be erected and shelters for cookhouses improvised with the help of contractors who were still at work on the construction of the forts. Many of the men, particularly those of 2nd Anti-Aircraft Battery, were unfamiliar with the guns and equipment. They were trained in the forts by non-commissioned officers of the Brigade and of 5 Heavy Battery.

Throughout the Precautionary period "there was quite a lot of confusion; in fact utter confusion, and, of course, there was a great deal of excitement."⁶ Much of the confusion was due to poor communications and shortage of transport. The Brigade had no transport of its own. The quartermaster shared an old civilian station wagon with the quartermaster of the Canadian Scottish. The Commanding Officer was generously offered a car by the authorities at a

5. Regimental Archives, War Diary Extracts, for manning details.

6. T. W. Patterson, "Civilians Manned Coast Guns Six Hours After Army Callup," The Daily Colonist [Victoria], August 24, 1969. Quoted statement by C. M. McLeod a former sergeant of 60 Battery.

charge of 6 cents per mile. There was no telephone link to Mary Hill, that at Albert Head was for the construction workers and was on a party line, and at Fort Rodd Hill the only link between the Fire Commander and the gun sites was the construction office phone at the work site, available during working hours in Lower Battery.⁷

The shortage of manpower added considerably to the confusion and difficulties. The Brigade was some 100 men short of its establishment. In this Precautionary period, the local newspapers did not sound any clarion call to arms, as they had done in 1914. Although the Brigade opened a recruiting office in the armoury, few recruits came forward. The excitement within the ranks of the Brigade hardly disturbed the city. Indeed some employers very quickly recalled men from the forts on threat of lost jobs.

It was only on September 1, that the first signs of a public awakening in Victoria occurred when a Colonist editorial and the Mayor called for volunteers.⁸ On that same day Ottawa ordered the full mobilisation of the militia. A few days later on September 10, 1939, Canada declared war on Germany. With the nation at war recruits began to come forward in increasing numbers and some of the early chaos of the Precautionary Period began to be sorted out.

7. Regimental Archives, Historical notes 1938-40. There was no plotting room or fire command post equipment, "not even a map or a pair of binoculars."

8. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], September 1, 1939.

As early as September 8, 1939, the Colonist was able to report that the Victoria units of the Canadian Active Service Force were gradually filling with recruits.⁹ Within a few weeks the Brigade had its full complement of men and was never again to suffer any serious shortage during the war. However, it did suffer initially from a shortage of trained men. Many key men were lost in the first weeks of mobilisation due to regulations which excluded one third of the Brigade's peace time members on medical and other grounds.¹⁰ An intensive training programme during the winter of 1939-1940 helped to remedy the situation.

By the spring of 1940 essential accommodation for the troops had been erected at all of the forts and the tented camps disappeared. The Brigade was issued with its first few vehicles and supplies of the new battledress uniform began to arrive. Telephones linked the gun sites, the plotting room and the fire command post at Mary Hill. Various shortages of stores and equipment began to be eliminated.

The work of improving the defences to the standards of the Interim Plan continued. In June two 12-pounder Q.F. guns were mounted at the newly prepared site on Golf Hill. Two more were transferred from Black Rock to Duntze Head and

9. Ibid., September 8, 1939.

10. Regimental Archives, Historical notes 1938-40.

one was mounted first on Victoria's breakwater, and then at Ogden Point.¹¹ At the end of 1940 nine fighting lights and eight illuminated area lights were in action at various points on the coast.¹² By the following spring several of these lights were remotely controlled from the gun positions. In April 1941, a third 6-inch gun was installed at Mary Hill. With it the Interim Plan was complete.

Although there had been some exchanges between Canada and the United States of America about the defence of the West coast in previous years, the regular exchange of information and shared defence planning did not occur until the formation of the Permanent Joint Board on defence in August, 1940.¹³ At a meeting in January 1941, the board approved the loan of two 8-inch guns from the United States Army for temporary emplacement at Christopher Point, near Esquimalt, "pending the arrival of high angle mountings"¹⁴ for the 9.2-inch guns at Albert Head. 68 Heavy Battery was formed from personnel of the Brigade and took over the two guns and the new fort at Christopher Point on November 7,

11. Guns were in action at Duntze Head June 11, 13, 1940, and at Ogden Point September 13, 1940. Heavy seas had shown the Breakwater to be a poor site.

12. William Head (2), Mary Hill (1), Albert Head (2), Rodd Hill (2), Duntze Head (1), Black Rock (1), Saxe Point (1), Harrison Point (1), McLaughlin Point (2), Holland Point (2), Clover Point (2).

13. Eayrs, In Defence of Canada II, pp. 176-210.

14. Stacey, Six Years of War p. 155.

1941.¹⁵ These guns, with a range of 23,500 yards could reach the American shore, effectively sealing the Juan de Fuca Strait to enemy ships.

By December 1941, the Brigade had settled to a daily life similar to that it had experienced during the First World War. It had to maintain its operational role in the fortress. It did so with a system of watches which kept all of the fortress sites manned constantly by a skeleton staff with full detachments at immediate call. The Brigade had always to train recruits to replace the steady flow of men who left, individually or in drafts to reinforce or form other artillery units in Canada or overseas. The Brigade's own training camp at Mary Hill had a key function in this role.¹⁶ A recruiting office was maintained at the armoury and periodically the Brigade paraded through Victoria to encourage recruits to its ranks.

There were long tedious hours of watch duty when little happened. Off duty activity became important as a relief and counter balance. All forts now had recreation huts and canteens. Civilian concert parties made regular

15. Regimental Archives, Battery History of 68 Battery.

16. The camp was closed June 27, 1942. No record exists of the total number who were trained and later left for overseas service. It appears that it was more than the total for the First World War. See pages 68, 71.

visits and were popular.¹⁷ Batteries regularly played most sports. Teams competed regularly in inter-battery competition and with teams from other units and civilian clubs. 60 Battery had constructed its own swimming pool at Macaulay Point. The various messes entertained, and were entertained by, other messes and civilian organisations. But inevitably, the long hours of watch duty took their toll. By December 1941, the Brigade was "going through the motions of being on duty . . . watching for logs and submarines."¹⁸

The Japanese struck at Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941. When the news reached Ottawa "the security of British Columbia became the first domestic concern of the national government."¹⁹ The most urgent task was to provide anti-aircraft defence for the Esquimalt and Victoria area.

2nd Anti-Aircraft Battery had ceased its coast defence role in the spring of 1941 to become an independent unit awaiting its guns.²⁰ A few days after Pearl Harbour the first three Canadian production 40mm light anti-aircraft guns

17. The Canadian Legion provided film shows; the Salvation Army and the Saskatoon Association among others provided concert parties.

18. Patterson, op. cit., quoted statement by C. M. McLeod.

19. Stacey, Six Years of War p. 166; pp. 166-174 for the larger picture of the reinforcement of the whole west coast.

20. 60 Heavy Battery took over responsibility for Macaulay Point.

were rushed to the west coast. They were deployed by the Battery to guard the Esquimalt dockyard (2) and Patricia Bay airport (1). This initial defence was reinforced in the same month by 1st Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun Troop with four guns which had come west from Arvida. In January 1942 the first two heavy anti-aircraft guns arrived. From this time the gun defence of the area was steadily improved until by October 1942 there were 16 heavy and 24 light guns in action controlled from an anti-aircraft operations room at Macaulay Point.²¹

Until December 1941 scant attention was given to the infantry defence of the Victoria and Esquimalt fortress. After Pearl Harbour, the Dufferin and Haldeman Rifles, Le Regiment de Hull, 3rd Battalion the Regina Rifle Regiment and 2nd Battalion the Canadian Scottish Regiment all at different times provided close infantry defence for the gun sites, and guards at other important points as well as a mobile defence force for the fortress.²² The presence of both infantry and gunners at the gun sites raised problems of command responsibilities. They were solved informally by

21. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada II, pp. 481-496, for a more complete account of the anti-aircraft defence of Canada and the West Coast.

22. Stacey, Six Years of War pp. 168-172. The fortress became the static defence within 6 Division area of responsibility (Vancouver Island).

local commanders and more formally in July 1942:-²³

. . . in order to preserve continuity and stability, the O.C. the Fort concerned will be responsible for the prep. and operation of the local defence scheme. The Infantry Commander of the local defence force will act in an advisory capacity in the prep. of the scheme and will be responsible for the tactical direction of his force during action.

With the announcement of the attack on Pearl Harbour the Brigade began a period of intense, constant watchfulness. A full blackout was enforced each night, ammunition readied and battle drills were frequently rehearsed. There was a particularly anxious period for the Brigade in February, 1942 when the liner Queen Elizabeth visited the Esquimalt dockyard for a few days.²⁴ It was felt by many that the Japanese must attack such a target. No attack came, but the anticipation was renewed in June when the Japanese invaded the Aleutian Islands and a submarine shelled the wireless station and lighthouse at Estevan Point on the west coast of Vancouver Island.²⁵ For a period the fortress adopted battle stations each night with double lookouts.

23. Regimental Archives, Letter, Brigade Major Victoria and Esquimalt Fortress to all Batteries, July 18, 1942.

24. Stacey, Six Years of War p. 168, mentions the anxiety of 2 A.A. Battery with only two light guns, the total of the air defence at that time. The liner anchored in Royal Roads for some hours during which all coast batteries were at battle stations.

25. The attack was on June 20, 1942. Remnants of the only hostile shells to fall on Canadian soil in both World Wars are to be seen in the Maritime Museum, Victoria.

With the entry of the United States of America into the war the Esquimalt fortress took on the additional task of controlling the full width of the Juan de Fuca Strait in cooperation with the American defences on the southern shore. A liaison team from the Brigade was permanently established with the American headquarters and joint exercises involving the guns and searchlights on both shores took place periodically.²⁶

As the summer of 1942 passed and no attack came, the tension eased. Nevertheless, throughout the remaining months of the year, and in the early months of 1943, there were several alarms. Some of them were to practice drills and others were triggered by suspicious sentries and lookouts, but the Brigade, now retitled 5th B.C. Coast Regiment,²⁷ went to battle stations on each occasion. By the spring of 1943, with the news of American successes in the Pacific theatre, the emergency had passed.

On August 30, 1943, the Chief of the General Staff recommended a reduction of the forces deployed in defence of the west coast.²⁸ The Regiment began to reduce from its peak strength of 38 officers and 1320 men. Ironically, as it

26. Fort Rodd Hill Archives, File 1-24, Esquimalt Fortress Defence Plan; Regimental Archives, History of 68 Battery.

27. Heavy Batteries were retitled Coast Batteries.

28. Stacey, Six Years of War p. 184.

reduced the defences were strengthened to the standard of the Ultimate Plan devised in 1937.

In February 1943, the remounting of the 9.2-inch guns on 30 degree mountings started. As the work progressed, the need for the 8-inch guns at Christopher Point ended. 68 Coast Battery was disbanded and the guns returned to the United States Army.²⁹ In July, the replacement of the older 6-inch guns at Mary Hill with a more modern version on 45 degree mountings began, thus converting this battery to a counter bombardment role. The first 6-pounder Duplex gun was in action at Duntze Head on May 1, 1943. Conversion and replacement at other sites continued until 1945, when as the Japanese surrendered, the Ultimate Plan for the Esquimalt defences was completed.

While guns were being converted or replaced, batteries were steadily being withdrawn from their operational role. The first to be withdrawn were those at Golf Hill and Albert Head, on August 4, 1944. Gradually other batteries were only partly manned and then finally placed in maintenance. Some were kept in action until August 15, 1945, to provide defence against submarine attack. With the Japanese surrender all remaining batteries ceased to be operational.

The Regiment was reduced in size as its commitment was reduced. For a short period sentries were alerted for

29. 68 Battery was disbanded April 20, 1944. The guns left Victoria in sealed box cars on January 19, 1945.

sightings of Japanese incendiary balloons when these began to drift over the coast,³⁰ but this hardly interrupted the return of stores and equipment and the placing of guns in maintenance. In 1944, 85 Coast Battery, manning guns on Yorke Island in the Johnson Strait, came under command as Vancouver's coast defences were closed down.³¹ After the Japanese surrender, the fortress was finally turned over to 11 Maintenance Detachment. In November, 1945, the last of the Regiment, including the Commanding Officer, were demobilised.

In the second major war of the twentieth century the Regiment's primary role had again been one of watch and ward duty in the Esquimalt fortress. The period until December, 1941, when the threat of attack was minimal, had provided an opportunity for it to repair the damage done by the parsimony and policies of the twenties and thirties. When the Japanese struck at Pearl Harbour, the Regiment and the artillery defences were ready to meet any sea borne attack. Even while it manned the defences, the Regiment continued to train recruits to its ranks and despatch trained men to other units in Canada and overseas. The Regiment's

30. Stacey, Six Years of War pp. 177-78, for an account of these attacks.

31. Yorke Island gun site was constructed in 1938 and finally mounted two 6-inch guns. 85 Battery was part of 15 Coast Regiment manning the defences of Vancouver.

war record was not one of gallant action, but its contribution to Canada's home defence and to the nation's total war effort was one in which it could justifiably take pride.

Chapter 9

COAST DEFENCE CONCLUDED

During the Second World War, the development of the coast artillery defence of Esquimalt and Victoria had reached its zenith. By the end of the war, the development of aircraft, rockets, radar and nuclear weapons heralded a new era of military strategy and tactics in which the whole concept of coast defence would change. It was some years before the coast defence systems of the Second World War were finally abandoned by the Canadian Army. During those years, the militia gunners of Victoria retained their responsibility for the artillery defence of Esquimalt and Victoria.¹

The 5th (B.C.) Coast Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery (Reserve Force) was reformed in 1946 under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Paulin.² It was one of eight reserve army units in Victoria which competed for recruits from the local population at a time when the public held an apathy toward military service very similar to that of the years following the First World War. A combined

1. Colonel G. W. L. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1967) II, pp. 544-549, 588-607, for background to this chapter.

2. General Order 116/46. Lt. Col. Paulin had served with 2 Anti-Aircraft Battery in the inter-war years, commanding it in 1939.

recruiting drive by all units with special "army weeks" in September and November of 1946, when equipment was paraded through Victoria, and displays took place at Macaulay Point, had little result.³ Nevertheless, there were just enough men in the Regiment by the summer of 1947 to enable the guns at Albert Head to be fired, but in September the total strength was still only 17 officers and 34 other ranks.⁴ In spite of continuing effort it was another three years before recruiting was moderately successful.

The coast artillery defences of Esquimalt and Victoria were maintained by a detachment of the regular force artillery and the guns were frequently used for courses given by the Coast Artillery Section of the Royal School of Artillery at Esquimalt. In the last days of the war radar had been introduced into the fortress system of range finding to give early warning of the approach of ships well beyond the range of the guns, and accurate target data in conditions of poor visibility when rangefinders and searchlights failed. But even when the quality of the equipment of the defences was being maintained at its highest standard, revision of the manning force had begun.

In 1948, the Soviet Union closed the land approaches

3. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], September 20-25, November 16-22, 1946.

4. Unit Part II Order 33, September 30, 1947. The figures include two medical officers and a paymaster.

to Berlin. The beginning of the Berlin airlift marked the end of a period of three years when the wartime cooperation of the allies had steadily degenerated to the point where the Soviet Union had emerged as the most serious post-war threat to peace. Like other Western nations, Canada revised her defence policy. In an address in the House of Commons, Mr. Claxton, the Minister of Defence, announced:-⁵

. . . the only possible aggressor is the Soviet Union, and the only way the Soviet Union can attack Canada is by sea or by air. By sea, since the Soviet Union has no fleet, attack would be possible only by submarine. Of the two, I think we may regard air as the more likely means of attack.

It was considered unlikely that the Soviet Union would squander any of the few atomic weapons it may have possessed on Canada, but would rather confine any attack to a diversionary raid designed to spread alarm among the civilian population. Such a raid might be a bombing attack or involve the use of airborne troops. A new emphasis was placed therefore on anti-aircraft defence.

In 1948, the Regiment was converted to an anti-aircraft role and redesignated 5th (B.C.) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment.⁶ However, the coast artillery role was not entirely abandoned. Members of the Regiment accordingly trained on a

5. Canada, Parliament, House of Commons, Debates (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, June 24, 1948), p. 5802.

6. Supplement to Canadian Army Orders, Issue No. 62, February 23, 1948. The change was effective from February 5, 1948.

variety of guns during the year. In October the Regiment returned to a single role when the British Columbia Coast Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery was authorised to be formed as a separate unit, leaving the 5th Regiment with responsibility for anti-aircraft defence of Esquimalt and Victoria.⁷

Conversion and redesignation of the Regiment to its anti-aircraft role did not prevent it from answering a call for duty in aid of the civil power. In May, 1948, the Fraser River rose to an unprecedented flood level, broke the dikes at Dewdney and threatened the entire Fraser valley. Officers and men of the Regiment, together with members of other reserve force units, spent two weeks helping to reinforce the dikes until the waters began to recede in the middle of June.⁸

At the end of 1949, the reorganisation which had begun in 1948 was completed. Lieutenant-Colonel Paulin was transferred to command the new Coast Regiment which was retitled 5th (B.C.) Coast Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. Farnsworth became the new Commanding Officer of the 5th (B.C.) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment which was renumbered 75th (B.C.)

7. Supplement to Canadian Army Orders, Issue No. 99, November 8, 1948. The B.C. Coast Regiment was one of seven authorised in this order effective October 28, 1948.

8. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], June 14, May 29-July 15, 1948.

Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment.⁹

An indication that the temporary one year death of coast artillery might become permanent in the near future could have been seen in the removal of the coast artillery guns from Macaulay Point in 1949.¹⁰ It was the end of an association that the militia gunners had held with the coast defence guns there since 1878.

By 1950, recruits were beginning to come forward in greater numbers. The improvement was small at first, but by the middle of 1951 the 75th Regiment had a unit roll call of about 200. It had added a third battery at Sidney to the two batteries regularly training in the armoury on Bay Street Victoria.¹¹ The shortage of personnel in the other anti-aircraft unit in Victoria, the 8th Anti-Aircraft Operations Room, was temporarily relieved by the first women volunteers for militia service after the announcement of cabinet approval of a militia Canadian Womens Army Corps in 1951.¹²

9. Supplement to Canadian Army Orders, Issue No. 148, October 17, 1949 for title changes effective September 29, 1949. 5 (B.C.) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment Part II Order No. 16, October 29, 1949 for appointment of commanding officers.

10. Victoria Detachment No. 11 Works Company R.C.E. VII450, Brief for Minister of National Defence December 13, 1965. These guns, together with others removed after 1956, were sold to various N.A.T.O countries.

11. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], May 31, 1950, August 30, 1951. The Battery had been authorised in 1948

12. 27 enrolled, trained for 3 months, and then dispersed when official recognition of the group was not given. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], October 26, 1951.

By comparison, the 5th Regiment fared poorly, being "lucky if 15 men answer roll call"¹³ even as late as the spring of 1952.

In 1951, the objectives of Canada's national defence were clearly defined as:-¹⁴

(1) The immediate defence of Canada and North America from direct attack; (2) the implementation of any undertakings made by Canada under the charter of the United Nations, or under the North Atlantic Treaty or other agreement for collective security; (3) the organization to build up our strength in a total war.

The development of Russian long range bombers and the steady increase in the stockpile of nuclear weapons had now reached the point where it was considered "quite likely that in a general war Russia would launch bombing attacks against North America either with atomic or conventional weapons."¹⁵ Canada's air defence was coordinated with that of the United States of America. The North American air defence system included an early warning radar screen and jet fighter interception with anti-aircraft guns providing close defence of possible targets. The guns in Canada would be manned by both the regular and reserve army until weapon development made gun defence obsolete.

The three years between 1951 and 1954 were three

13. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], March 16, 1952. W

14. Canada, Parliament, House of Commons, Debates (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, February 5, 1951), p. 91, statement by Minister of Defence.

15. Ibid.

stable and good years for the reserve force gunner units in Victoria. 75 (B.C.) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, the direct descendant of the old 5th Coast Regiment, fared best. It became the biggest reserve force unit in the Victoria area although still well below full strength. Each year it held an annual camp and frequently fired its guns from Macaulay Point at targets towed by aircraft, 8th Anti-Aircraft Operations Room regularly coordinated its training with the 75 Regiment and held its annual camps at Albert Head. Operating in the shadow of the anti-aircraft units, and in the face of rumours of absorption by them,¹⁶ the 5th (B.C.) Coast Regiment continued to survive. It did so sufficiently well to be able to hold successful summer camps at Mary Hill in 1952 and 1953, firing the 6-inch guns there and the 6-pounder Duplex from Belmont Battery, Fort Rodd Hill. All three units combined in the social activities of the artillery messes they jointly maintained in the armoury. They all took part in the annual Sunset ceremonial parades on the lawn in front of the legislative building in Victoria when these began in 1953.

During 1953, the organisation, administration, training and role of the reserve forces of Canada were examined by a committee of officers convened for the purpose.¹⁷ The

16. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], March 16, 1952.

17. Nicholson, The Gunners of Canada II, pp. 594-598, for an account of this committee chaired by Maj.-Gen. Howard Kennedy.

Kennedy Committee conducted its review at a time when new weaponry had appeared which would change the old concepts of anti-aircraft and coast defence. By 1954, the Russians had the thermonuclear or H bomb, an extensive long and medium range bomber capacity, and were improving their navy. Guided missiles were already in operation in a ground to air and air to air role. Although missile development was still in its infancy, it was already clear that further sophistication of the equipment and techniques would be rapidly achieved. Anti-aircraft gun defence against high and fast flying bomber aircraft had become obsolete.

With the advent of the new sophisticated weaponry, there were many in Canada who doubted that there was any future need for a reserve army. In any case, the organisation of the reserve army was on much too grand a scale for the number of recruits it had attracted. The Committee presented its report in January 1954. In modified form its recommendations were implemented later during the year.¹⁸

The reserve force artillery units in Victoria were amalgamated on December 7, 1954, to form one unit with the role of close harbour defence. The former second in command of the 75th Regiment, Major T. D. Eckford, was appointed Commanding Officer of the new 5th West Coast Harbour Defence Battery in which the former 120th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery

18. Ibid., p. 597.

at Prince Rupert formed a troop.¹⁹

5th West Coast Harbour Defence Battery had a good first year in 1955. In February it held its first firing practice at Mary Hill which included the Prince Rupert troop. The whole Battery was together again for a successful twelve day camp at Mary Hill in July, during which the 6-inch guns there, and the 6-pounder Duplex at Belmont, were fired in extensive practice. Whilst in camp the Battery provided a guard for the Sunset ceremony on the legislature lawns dressed in the blue uniforms and white helmets long recognised by Victoria's citizens as the dress of the city's gunners. By the close of the year, the Battery had a total strength of 28 officers and 263 other ranks.²⁰

An unusual feature of the Battery's second successful year was the inclusion of a newly recruited detachment of the Canadian Womens Army Corps in its training. The detachment manned the searchlights while the Battery conducted a night firing practice in June 1956, during a

19. 5 West Coast Harbour Defence Battery R.C.A. Part 2 Order No. 1, December 7, 1954. Eckford moved to Vancouver and was replaced by Major Harry Gwilliam in May 1955. The Prince Rupert troop brought a pipe band to the new unit. With the new emphasis on close harbour defence the 9.2-inch guns were removed from Albert Head and shipped to Turkey. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], November 24, 27, 1954, October 21, 1955.

20. 5 West Coast Harbour Defence Battery R.C.A. Annual Historical Report December 31, 1955, 5HD/1450-1, March 6, 1956.

combined annual camp at Mary Hill.²¹ It was the first time in Canadian Army History that men and women had trained together.²²

The shots fired from Belmont Battery on the night of July 22, 1956, were the last to be fired from the coast artillery defences of Victoria and Esquimalt. Missile development had now reached the stage where cruisers and battleships mounting heavy guns could be replaced by lighter, smaller ships which would be launching bases for guided missiles.²³ A future attack on a port or naval base could be launched effectively from ships at ranges well outside those of the most modern coast defence guns.

Within a month of the end of camp there were rumours that 5 West Coast Harbour Defence Battery would be disbanded. There was an immediate protest from Victorians against such treatment. It grew louder in spite of the reassurances of the Area Commander that only a change of role was contemplated for the Battery.²⁴ Only when an official announcement

21. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], June 23, 1956.

22. Canadian Army Journal, X, 4 (1956), 68.

23. Canada, Parliament, House of Commons, Debates (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, June 16, 1955), p. 4891.

24. The Victoria Daily Times, editorial and Lt.-Col. J. G. Rycroft letter August 29; September 5, 1956. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], editorial August 28, report of Chamber of Commerce petition September 19, City Council support September 14, Victoria Assembly Native Sons of Canada protest October 27, 1956.

was made in November that the Battery was to cease its role of coast defence but retain its historic number 5 and be converted to a medium artillery battery, was Victoria pacified. 5th Independent Medium Battery Royal Canadian Artillery held its first parade in January 1957.

An editorial of the Colonist in the fall of 1956 aptly summarised the history of Victoria's militia artillery through the post war years, and the feelings of Victorians about their gunners, with the statement that:-²⁵

In recent years it has had in succession the roles of heavy coastal gun, anti-aircraft and harbor defence battery, and now it will become a medium artillery unit. So many switches rather suggest the defence department's inability to make up its mind, but the main thing is that "The Fifth" will carry on. That is good news.

The good news was confirmed in 1958 when the Battery was given the right to use the province's initials in its title again, thus correcting a wrong which had been keenly felt in 1954 and regularly protested since.²⁶

For seventy-eight years, from 1878 to 1956, coast artillery manned by Victoria's militia gunners had protected the naval base at Esquimalt and Victoria's harbour. The type of guns and methods used had been directly related to naval developments. A threatened attack by wooden Russian ships in 1878 had caused the first earthworks to be constructed,

25. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], October 31, 1956.

26. The Daily Colonist [Victoria], May 24, 1958.

surplus naval cannon to be mounted and the first volunteers to be recruited to man the batteries. The advent of iron clad ships, steam powered and mounting breech loading guns, required coast artillery defences to match them. These defences were ready, and the militia artillerymen trained in their use, by the First World War. Continued improvement in the armour, speed and guns of ships called for better guns and more sophisticated range finding and fire coordination equipment in the coast defences. At a zenith of sophistication at the end of the Second World War, coast artillery was made obsolete by the new naval weapons of torpedo and bomb carrying aircraft, and the whole concept of coast defence underwent drastic change with the advent of nuclear weapons and guided missiles.

The militia gunners of Victoria never fired a shot in anger from the guns they manned. In the light of this fact it would be easy to look back upon the whole of their history from 1878 to 1956, and that of the defences, and condemn them both as military waste. To do so implies that defences can only have value if they are tested. It ignores the value of deterrence and the need for those who feel themselves threatened to obtain security. The desire for security expressed by Victorians and local military authorities was the overwhelming reason for the erection of the first batteries and the organisation of the first volunteers to man them. It continued to be a major factor for the preservation and improvement of the defences through the

years. If a judgement is to be passed then it must be passed upon all those in the area, civilian and military alike.

Apart from their primary role of manning the defences, the militia gunners provided a nucleus of disciplined, trained men who could be called upon at short notice to fulfill other tasks. During their history, they calmed tempers and restored law and order where civil disobedience had occurred, provided volunteers to fight in the nation's armies abroad, and organised aid when natural disaster occurred in the province. Much of this duty was far from glamorous, but no less essential for all that.

Through their history the militia gunners developed a close knit allegiance to their own unit organisation. With its successes they developed confidence in their unit and a certain pride. But they were only, and always, part time soldiers and therefore they and their unit remained a part of the fabric of the local society of Victoria. That society came steadily through the years to recognise the dependable value of the militia gunners and to be proud of this segment of itself. It was this pride of community which was expressed in the protests of 1956 when it seemed that the militia gunners were condemned to extinction.

It was a reasonable pride and a well founded one. The militia gunners of Victoria served their community well during the years when they were responsible for its coast artillery defence.

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record books which are not catalogued.

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after that date.

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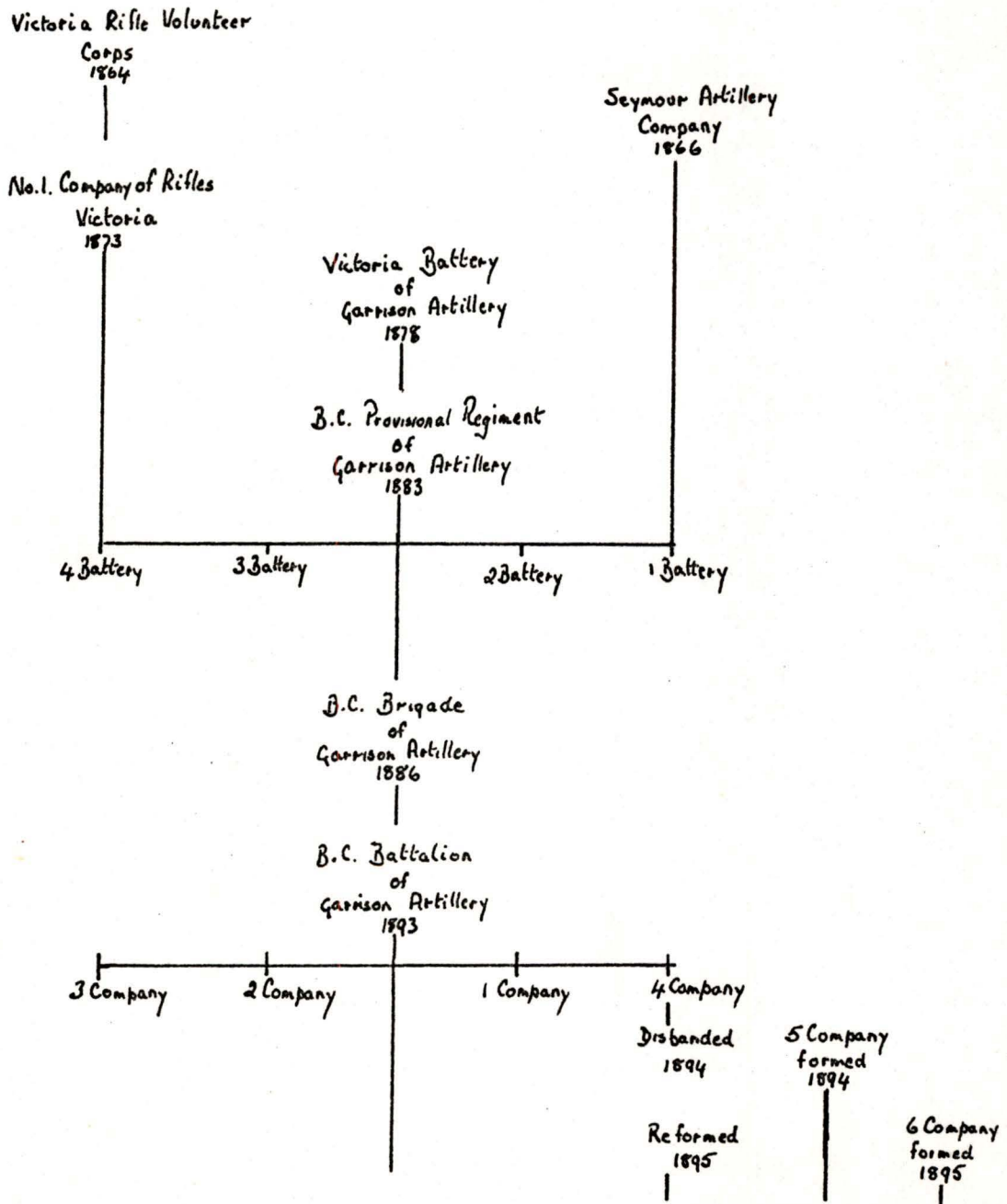
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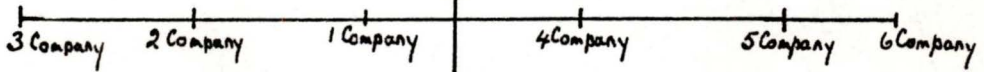
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APPENDIX A

Lineage Chart



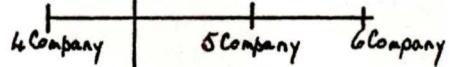
5th B.C. Regiment
Canadian Artillery
1895



1 Battalion — 1896 — 2 Battalion



~~(Victoria)~~
Vancouver
Island

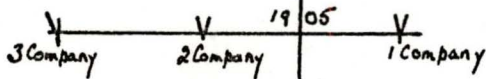
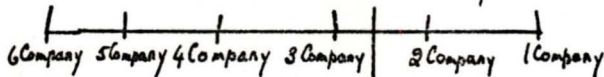


~~(Vancouver)~~
mainland

1899 — 1899

5th B.C. Regiment
Canadian Artillery

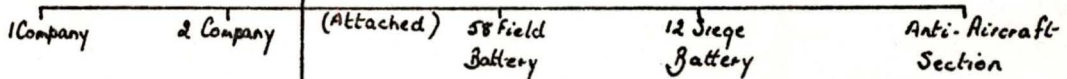
1899
6th Battalion of Rifles

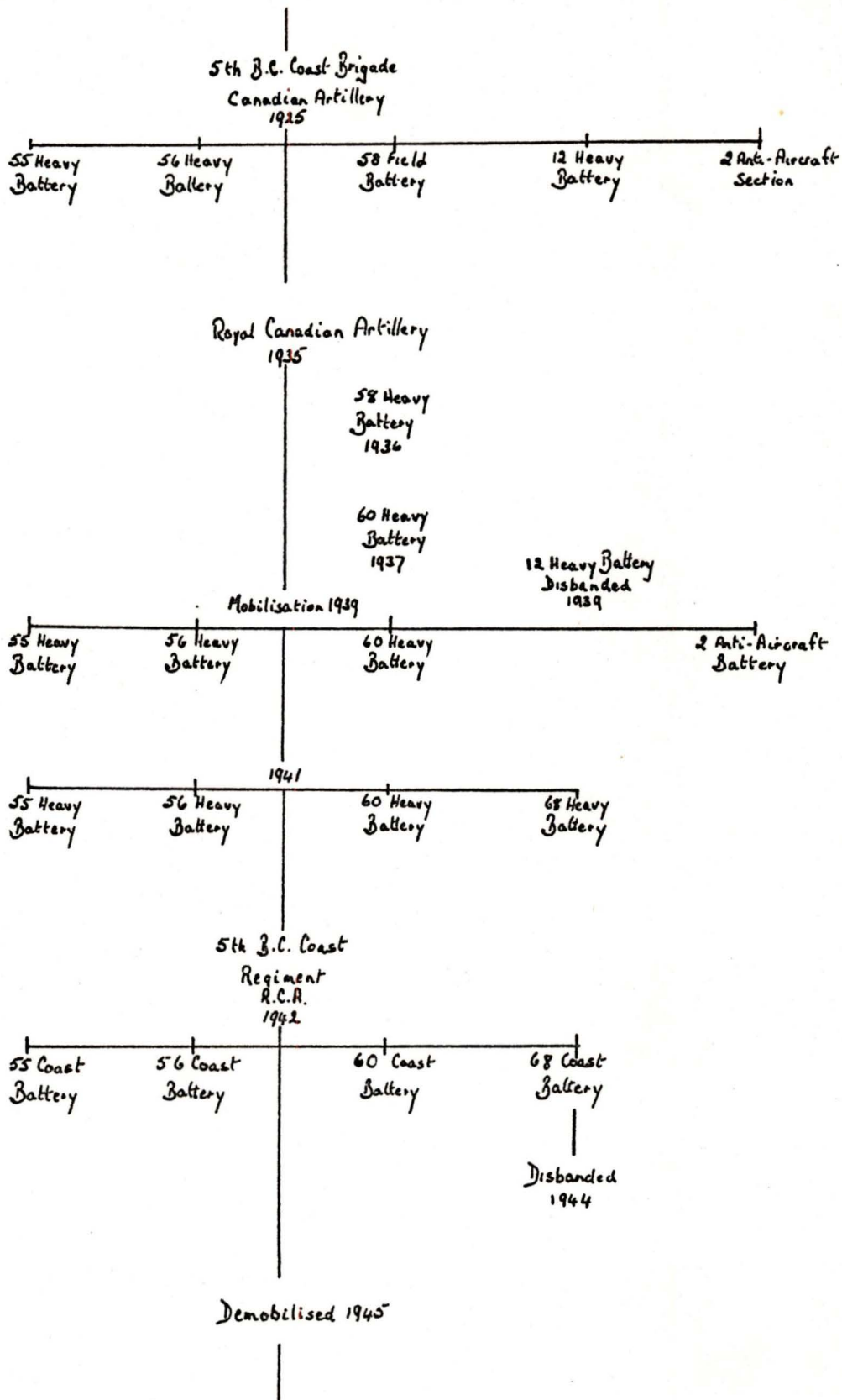


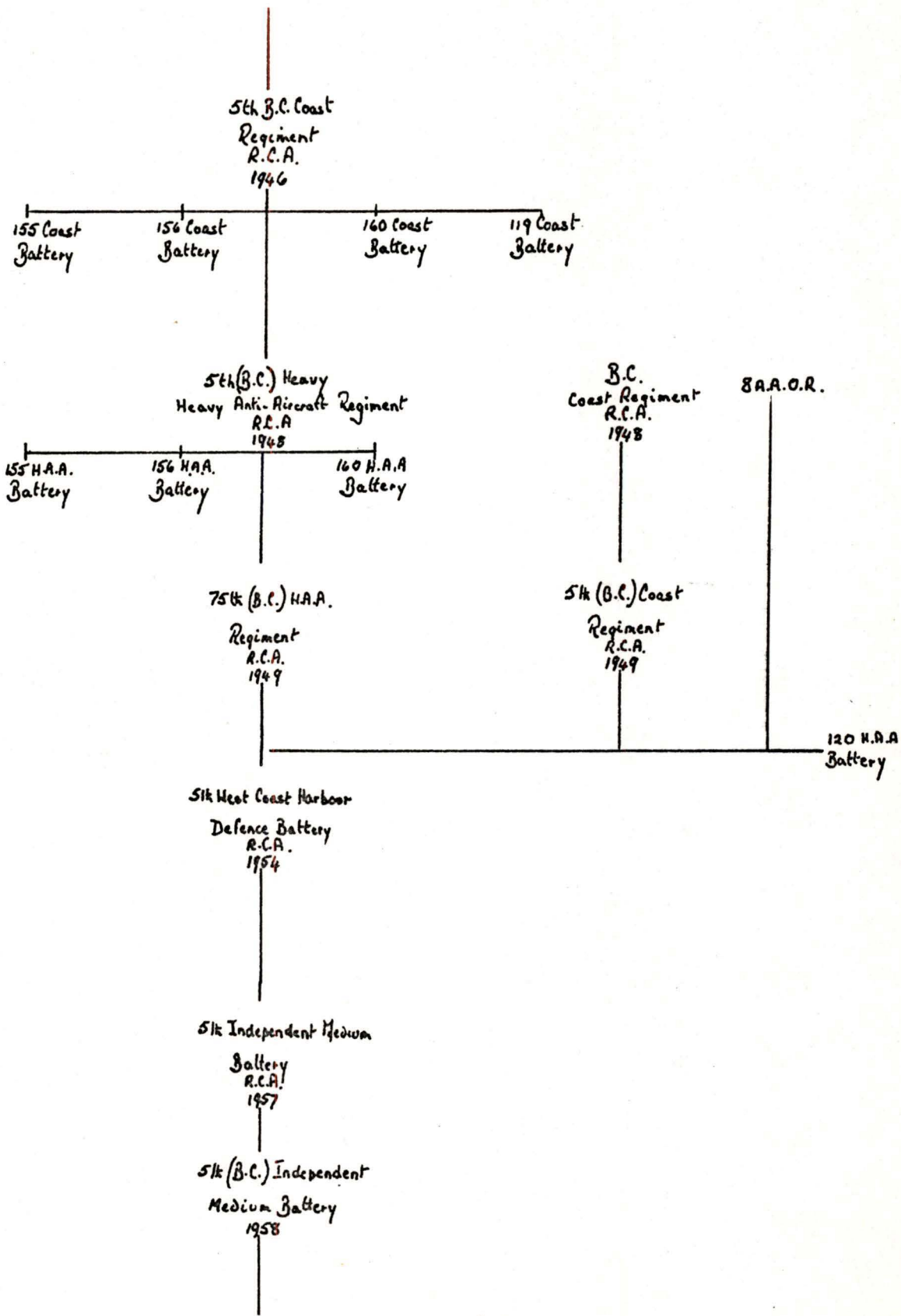
August 14, 1914. Active duty.

August 15, 1918. Demobilised.

5th B.C. Regiment
Canadian Garrison Artillery
1920







5th (B.C.) Field Bty (RCA) (@ of 20)

5th BC FA Regiment 1991 Sept.

⇒ 1995, warnings of being returned to Bty strength (Fixed Restraints)

APPENDIX B

Commanding Officers

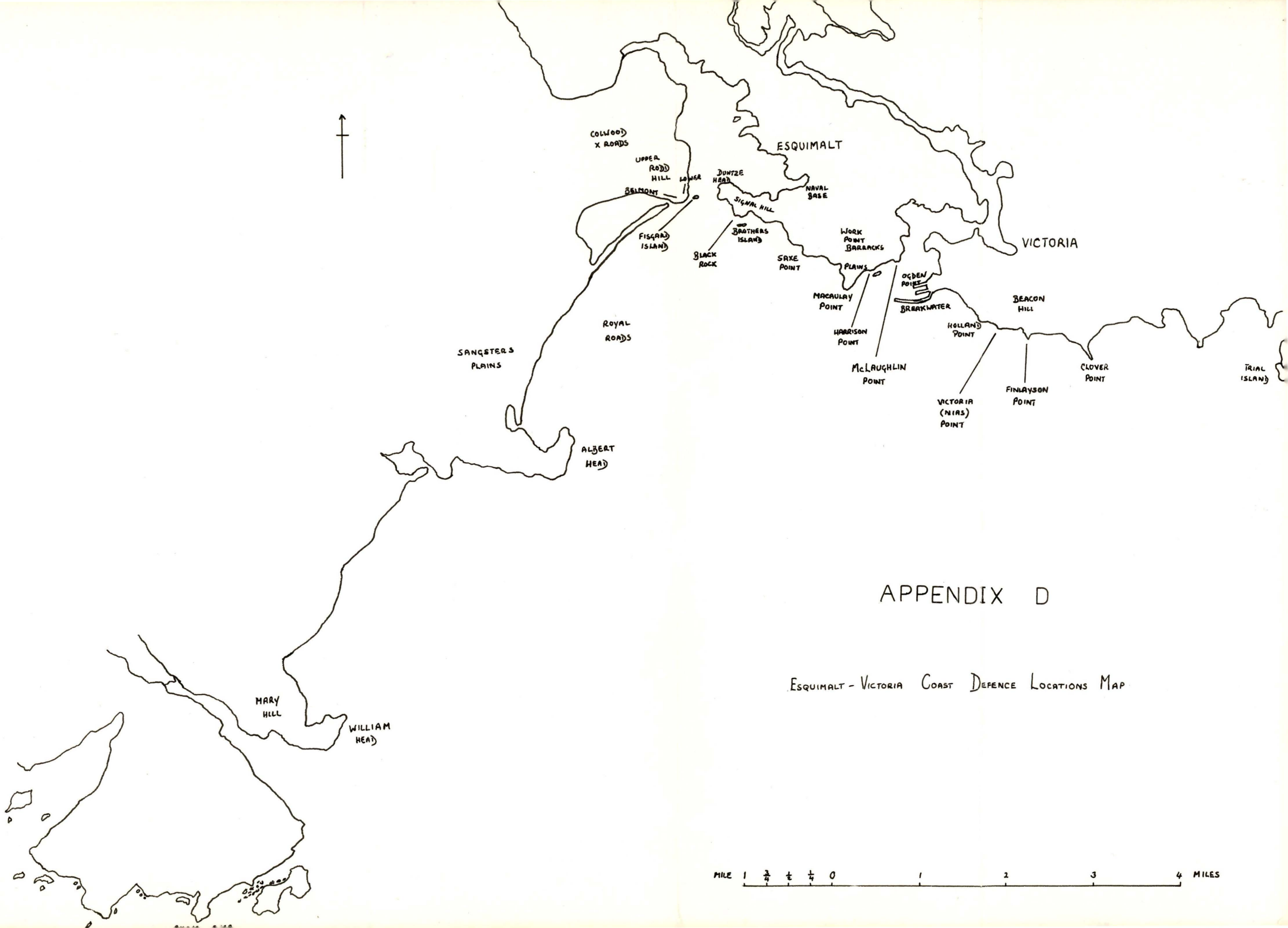
Maj. C. T. Dupont		1878-1885
Lt.-Col. R. Wolfenden		1885-1888
E. G. Prior		1888-1896
	5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery	1897-1899
F. B. Gregory	1st Battalion 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery	1896-1901
R. R. Munro		1901-1903
J. A. Hall		1903-1909
A. W. Currie		1909-1914
W. N. Winsby		1914-1915
R. Angus		1915-1920
F. A. Robertson		1920-1925
J. C. Harris		1925-1930
T. B. Monk		1930-1934
M. A. Kent		1934-1938
V. McKenna		1938-1942
A. E. Routier		1942
K. W. Hicks		1942-1945
Maj. T. McGimpsey		1945
Lt.-Col. G. F. Paulin		1945-1949

Lt.-Col. W. J. Farnsworth	1949-1952
J. C. Baird	1952-1954
Maj. T. D. Eckford	1954-1955
H. Gwilliam	1955-1956
F. D. H. Nelson	1956-

APPENDIX C

Coast Defence Gun Characteristics

Gun	Shell Weight	Mounting	Range in yards
64-pounder R.M.L. (8-inch conversion) S.S. 71cwt.	651b	Naval, wooden sliding and traversing.	3,600
7-inch. 6½ton. S.S. R.M.L.	1151b	Naval, iron, sliding and traversing.	4,000
8-inch. 9ton. S.S. R.M.L.	1801b	Naval, iron, sliding and traversing.	4,000
6-inch B.L. Mk.6.	1001b	Carriage Disappearing Mk.4.	10,000
12-pounder Q.F. 12cwt.	121b	Carriage garrison Mk.1.	7,300
9.2-inch B.L. Mk.10.	3801b	Carriage garrison Mk.5. (15 degree) C Mk. 6A (30 degree)	17,400 27,900
6-inch B.L. Mk.7.	1001b	Carriage garrison Mk.2. (15 degree)	14,550
6-inch B.L. Mk.24.	1001b	Carriage garrison Mk.6. (45 degree)	21,700
6-pounder Q.F. 10cwt Mk.1 twin.	61b	Carriage garrison Mk.1.	5,150
8-inch B.L. M1888	2501b	Garrison	23,500



APPENDIX D

ESQUIMALT - VICTORIA COAST DEFENCE LOCATIONS MAP

APPENDIX E

Glossary of abbreviations and military terms

1. Abbreviations

A.A.	Anti-Aircraft
A.A.O.R.	Anti-Aircraft Operations Room
B.C.B.G.A.	British Columbia Brigade of Garrison Artillery
B.L.	Breech loading
Bty	Battery
Capt.	Captain
C.E.F.	Canadian Expeditionary Force
C.F.A.	Canadian Field Artillery
Col.	Colonel
D.A.G.	Deputy Adjutant General
D.O.C.	District Officer Commanding
D.R.F.	Depression Range Finder
Flt.Lt.	Flight Lieutenant
G.S.O.	General Staff Officer
H.A.A.	Heavy Anti-Aircraft
Lt.	Lieutenant
Lt.-Col.	Lieutenant-Colonel
Maj.	Major
Maj.-Gen.	Major-General
Med.	Medium
O.C.	Officer Commanding
Q.F.	Quick Firing
R.A.	Royal Artillery
R.C.A.	Royal Canadian Artillery
R.C.A.F.	Royal Canadian Air Force
R.C.G.A.	Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery
R.C.N.	Royal Canadian Navy
R.E.	Royal Engineers
R.M.	Royal Marines
R.M.L.	Rifled muzzle loading
R.N.	Royal Navy
S.N.O.	Senior Naval Officer

2. Military terms

Battery.

This term is used to describe one or more guns positioned as a fire unit. It is used also to indicate a part (sub unit) of an artillery regiment. It is hoped that use of the term has been sufficiently judicious to avoid confusing the reader as to which definition is intended in any particular case.

Classification of guns. e.g. 64-pounder, 7-inch.

Rifled muzzle loading guns in British service of 7-inch calibre and upwards were designated by the calibre in inches and weight in tons e.g. 7-inch $6\frac{1}{2}$ ton (shortened for easy reference to 7-inch); those under 7-inch calibre by the weight of projectile. Later guns were similarly designated although by calibre or projectile weight only and without regard for the 7-inch division.

B.L. and Q.F. guns.

The projectile and propellant charge are loaded separately in B.L. guns. Projectile and charge are fixed together in one round and loaded as one round in Q.F. guns making for a faster rate of fire.

Fighting light.

A concentrated movable beam of light which was usually allotted to a particular gun battery and used to search for, pickup and follow a target which that battery could engage.

Illuminated area light.

A fixed dispersed beam of light used to illuminate a particular area of water through which an attacking vessel would have to pass to enter a harbour. Usually several of these lights were used together at a harbour entrance.

Oliver equipment.

A type of individual harness from which the soldier suspended haversacks, ammunition pouch, bayonet etc.

Royal Marine Light Infantry and Royal Marine Artillery.

The Marines that had served for many years previously aboard ships of the Royal Navy were styled Royal Marines on April 29, 1801 by order of King George III. On August 18, 1804, a company of Royal Marine Artillery was authorised for each of the three Marine divisions. In 1855, the infantry were styled Royal Marine Light Infantry. The two corps were combined in 1923 in one corps of Royal Marines.

Shell.

A fuze projectile designed to explode in the air, or on impact, or after penetration.

Shot.

A solid projectile.

6-inch disappearing guns.

Full title given in Appendix C. The carriage of these guns allowed them to be lowered below ground level when not actually firing, thus affording maximum protection to the gun and its detachment from enemy fire. Their disadvantage lay in the time taken to lower and raise the gun between each round.

6-pounder Duplex.

Common name for 6-pounder Q.F. 10 cwt Mk.1. A twin barrellled weapon on a single mounting.

45 degree etc. mounting.

Mounting allowing a gun elevation of 45 degrees.

Fortress system of range finding.

Evolved after the First World War to give better target data at the increased ranges of counter bombardment coast artillery guns. The system consisted of a series of observation posts from 4 to 10,000 yards apart at different heights equipped with a variety of instruments for calculating the bearing and range of the target. All fed their information to a central plotting room which was strongly protected. There it was translated into coordinates and course of the target. The coordinates were sent to the guns where they were converted by an instrument into bearing and range for that particular battery. The flow of information to the guns was continuous and after the target had been engaged fall of shot information was passed in the same way enabling corrections to be made.

VITA

Surname: LOVATT Given Names: Ronald

Place of Birth: Darlaston, Date of Birth: 17 February,
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and Leaving:

Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, England 1947 to 1948

University of Victoria, British Columbia 1969 to 1974

Degrees, Diplomas, Etc., Awarded, with Dates and Names of
Institutions:

B. A. (Honours) 1972 University of Victoria
British Columbia

Honors and Awards:

Province of British Columbia Scholarship 1971/72

University of Victoria Graduate Scholarship 1972/73, 1973/74

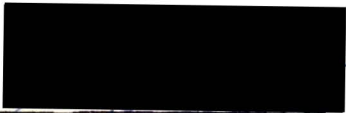
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Name

Date

30 April 1974

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