

History of the Defence of Victoria and Esquimalt:  
Royal Marine Artillery period 1893-1899  
by Ronald Lovatt  
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## Abstract

This is the second in a series of studies which together will relate the history of the defence of Victoria and Esquimalt. It begins with a brief summary of the historical events which led to the British-Canadian agreement in 1893 to place the first permanent batteries of coast defence guns and a Royal Marine Artillery garrison at Esquimalt. The background, training, assembly and garrison life of the marine detachment, and its dramatic effect upon the training of the local militia, as well as its excellent relationship with the local community, are described in some detail. The history of the construction programme is recounted also: the successful completion of the new 6-inch gun batteries and submarine mining facilities, the amendment of the original armament plan and the work in hand at the end of the period. The study ends with an account of the discussions in London, England, which led to a new British-Canadian agreement in 1899 and the relief of the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment at Esquimalt by a new garrison. It is an account of an important period of change in the history of the defence of Victoria and Esquimalt when new attitudes were adopted, new equipment was installed and new standards were set.

## Acknowledgement

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## Introduction

This study is the second in a series which, when complete, will provide a history of the defence of Victoria and Esquimalt to 1957. The purpose of the series is to provide historical information for the successful interpretation of Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Park.

The major archival sources of information used in the preparation of this study were the Public Records Office and the Royal Marines Museum in England, and the Provincial Archives of British Columbia. Endnotes are provided.

A summary of the events which led to the 1893 British-Canadian agreement to provide a marine garrison and permanent defences for Esquimalt is in the prologue. Subsequent chapters give a history of the marine garrison and of the local militia assigned to man the defences, an account of the construction undertaken and a description of the process of reappraisal which led to a new British-Canadian agreement in 1899. An epilogue links this study with the next in the series.

For the readers convenience a sketch map of the geographical features referred to in the text is included at Figure 1. There are several photographs of the marine garrison, a few of the militia and a lineage chart to clarify its many organizational changes, drawings and photographs of the armament and a series of plans of the defence works. Military terms used in the text are explained in a glossary.



## Abbreviations Used

a/Br	Acting Bombardier
ADM	Admiralty
BC	British Columbia
BCBGA	British Columbia Battalion Of Garrison Artillery
BL	Breech loading
Bomb.	Bombardier
Br	Bombardier
CA	Canadian Artillery
CB	Commander of the Order of the Bath
CBE	commander of the Order of the British Empire
Col Sgt	Colour Sergeant
CMG	Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George
Corp, Corpl.	corporal
CRE	Commander Royal Engineers
Detacht.	Detachment
DRF	Depression Range Finder
DSO	Distinguished Service Order
Gr	Gunner
HM	Her Majesty('s)
HMS	Her Majesty's Ship
L	Pounds Sterling
MD	Doctor of Medicine
MG	Machine Gun
MK	Mark
MO	Marching Order
NCO	Non Commissioned Officer
Pd a/Br	Paid acting Bombardier
pdr	Pounder
Pd Lce Sgt	Paid Lance Sergeant

PRO	Public Record Office, London, England
QE	Quadrant Elevation
QF	Quick Firing
QMS	Quartermaster Sergeant
RE	Royal Engineers
RGA	Royal Garrison Artillery
RMA	Royal Marine Artillery
RM	Royal Marine(s)
RML	Rifled muzzle loading
Sergt	Sergeant
thro	Through

## Chronology .

May	1893	Reorganization of B.C. Battalion of Garrison Artillery.
18 August	1893	Advance Party RMA arrive Victoria, Lieutenant Templer in command.
19 August	1893	C Battery Canadian Artillery leaves Victoria.
August	1893	R.F. Works Office established Work Point Barracks by staff from England.
29 August	1893	Q.M.S.G. Reeve RE joins RE Works Office at Work Point Barracks.
3 September	1893	Major H.H. Muirhead RE in Victoria to supervise construction of defences.
January	1894	5 Company, B.C. Battalion of Garrison Artillery raised in Vancouver.
24 January	1894	Lieutenant Governor Dewdney opens new drill hall on Menzies Street, Victoria, for the three Victoria companies of the B.C. Battalion of Garrison Artillery.
3 February	1894	RE Works Office calls for tenders for land and water transportation.
29 March	1894	Main body RMA arrive Victoria, Major Rawstone in command.
1 April	1894	First public parade of RMA; church parade to St. Saviour's garrison church.
1 May	1894	Lieutenant H.W. Gordon and twenty men of 18th (Fortress) Company RE arrive Victoria from Halifax to assist in construction of fortifications .

10 June	1894	Three 7-inch RML Macaulay Point dismounted by this date. Guns returned to England.
14 June	1894	Funeral of Chief Justice Matthew Baillie Begbie, RMA and militia escorts.
22 June	1894	Major Rawston promoted Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel.
21 August	1894	Funeral of Captain Smallfield, RMA and militia escorts.
5 September	1894	Notice of expropriation of land at Macaulay Point.
8 September	1894	4 Company B.C. Battalion of Garrison Artillery, New Westminster, disbanded.
10 September - 14 September	1894	School of Artillery B Certificate, run by RMA for militia gunners in Victoria.
8 November	1894	Inspection of RMA at Government House, Victoria, by Governor-General.
12 November	1894	RMA guard at opening of Legislative Assembly, Victoria.
26 November	1894	38 acres of land at Rodd Hill purchased from Cecilia E. Young for fortifications.
December	1894	Brothers Island Battery dismantled by this date.
10 December	1894	6-inch gun arrives Victoria.
14 December	1894	Major General I.C. Herbert General Officer Commanding the Canadian Militia inspects RMA, fortifications, militia and School of Artillery course.
31 December	1894	New works office completed in Work Point Barracks.

December	1894	Surgeon A.S.G. . Bell to HMS <u>Imperieuse</u> for duty with RMA Detachment, Esquimalt.
18 February	1895	Gnr. H. Reynolds RMA dies in Royal Navy hospital, Esquimalt.
13 April	1895	4 Company, B.C. Battalion of Garrison Artillery, New Westminster, reformed .
22 April	1895	Authority for construction of Upper & Lower Batteries and Casemate Barracks, Fort Rodd Hill.
25 May	1895	Sham Fight, Beacon Hill, with RMA militia and naval forces. Celebration of Queens birthday.
4 June	1895	School of Artillery A Certificate Course for seven militia artillery officers run by RMA in Victoria ends.
9 June	1895	Nine families of the Detachment arrive Victoria from England.
6 September	1895	Construction begins at Fort Rodd Hill with Lower Battery.
October	1895	Capt. Templer RMA leaves Esquimalt on sick leave.
28 December	1895	B.C. Battalion of Garrison Artillery retitled 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery.
January	1896	Martini-Henry rifles replace Long Snider, 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery.
12 March	1896	Five 6-inch disappearing guns and mountings unloaded from S.S. <u>Charmer</u> Victoria harbour.
30 March	1896	Report on Electric Lights and Quick Firing guns by Major Muirhead RE and Lieutenant Boothby, RN .
29 April	1896	Master Gunner Wild and Sergeant Armament Artificer Watson of RGA arrive Victoria to supervise mounting of 6-inch guns at Rodd Hill and Macaulay Point.

26 May	1896	Six 13-pdr RML field guns at Work Point Barracks by this date.
27 May	1896	Biggest ever sham fight and military parade at Macaulay Point cancelled with news of Point Ellice bridge disaster.
7 June	1896	Ammunition moved from Beacon Hill magazine to Work Point Barracks.
June	1896	School of Artillery B Certificate course for companies of 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery in Vancouver completed. Run by RMA.
16 June	1896	Rear-Admiral Henry St. Leger Bury Palliser takes over from Rear-Admiral Henry Frederick Stephenson, C.B. as Commander-in-Chief Pacific Station.
3 July	1896	One 6-inch gun mounted at Rodd Hill.
3-7 August	1896	Canadian Artillery team wins Queen's prize in garrison artillery competitions at Shoeburyness, England, firing 64-pdr RML. Members of 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery in team.
August	1896	School of Artillery A Certificate course run by RMA for officers of 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery, in Vancouver, completed.
October	1896	Colonial Defence Committee reviews Esquimalt defence.
11 December	1896	6-inch guns mounted at Macaulay Point by this date.
December	1896	Commander-in-Chief Pacific Squadron comments on lack of clear command and responsibility for Esquimalt defence.

8 January	1897	Colonial Secretary memorandum to British cabinet. Review of garrison and of responsibility for Esquimalt defence.
1 February- July	1897	6-inch gun drill instruction by RMA for militia artillery, Victoria.
May	1897	Lieutenant-Colonel Rawstone hands over command of RMA detachment to Major W.F. Trotter RMA and command of the garrison to Lieutenant-Colonel H.H. Muirhead RE.
31 May	1897	Colonial Defence Committee recommendations on responsibility for Esquimalt.
20 June	1897	Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.
15 July- 1 August	1897	Course and reexamination of certificate holders on armament and DRF by RMA.
31 July	1897	5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery reorganized with two battalions of three companies each centred on Victoria and Vancouver.
22 October	1897	First firing Fort Rodd Hill 6-inch guns by RMA.
30 October	1897	First firing Macaulay Point 6-inch guns by RMA.
1 November	1897	Lieutenant G.C.E. Elliott RE from England replaces Lieutenant H.W. Gordon as O.C. detachment of 18th (Fortress) Company RE and Division Officer.
30 November	1897	Macaulay Point handed over to RMA.
15 December	1897	colonial Secretary's recommendations on scale and responsibility Esquimalt defence.

January	1898	HM Torpedo Boat Destroyers VIRAGO and SPARROWHAWK arrive Esquimalt from England to stay until 1904.
February	1898	HMS EGERIA, survey vessel, arrives Esquimalt from China.
31 March	1898	Official completion date Upper and Lower Batteries and Casemate Barracks, Rodd Hill. Gun shed Work Point Barracks handed over to RMA.
2 April	1898	Plan for minefield at entrance to Esquimalt harbour approved by Admiralty.
3 May	1898	Authority given to construct Belmont Battery.
7 May	1898	Construction of engine room, Fort Rodd Hill, begins.
25 May	1898	Sham fight on Beacon Hill. Victoria, Celebration of Queen's Birthday. RMA and both battalions of 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery take part with RN.
June	1898	First defence scheme for Esquimalt completed and submitted to Colonial Defence Committee.
4 July	1898	5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery marches in 4 July parade in Seattle by invitation.
1 September	1898	Lieutenant-Colonel H.H. Muirhead hands over garrison command to Lieutenant-Colonel A. Grant RE on leaving station. Submarine mining establishment completed by this date.
3 September	1898	Construction of Belmont Battery begins.
5 October	1898	Authority received by this date for construction of Black Rock Battery. Shell and cartridge store in Work Point Barracks



handed over by this date. Submarine mining Stores arrived by this date. Army Ordnance Depot completed by this date. Inspection of all works and barracks by Lt. Col. C. Wilkinson RE the CRE Canada. Inspection of garrison and works by General Officer Commanding Halifax, Lord William Seymour.

15 October	1898	Black Rock 12-pdr battery construction started.
5 November	1898	Macaulay Point 6-inch guns first firing by Victoria militia, Rodd Hill guns by Vancouver militia.
10 November	1898	Interdepartmental conference in London decides size of new garrison and terms of new cost sharing to be proposed to Canada.
1 February	1899	New agreement proposals sent to Canada.
9 March	1899	Sgt. Major J. McArthur RE Foreman of Works, Work Point Barracks, retires, retained as pensioner Foreman of Works.
20 March	1899	Rear-Admiral Lewis Anthony Beaumont, appointed Commander-in-Chief Pacific Station.
11 April	1899	Phillipine Island annexed to U.S.A.
20 May	1899	NO. 1 Company, 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery fire 13-pdr RML field guns at Beacon Hill
5 June	1899	Belmont House property added to Fort Rodd Hill.
27 June	1899	Canadian approval of new agreement with Britain for defence of Esquimalt for 10 years commencing 30 September 1899.
26 July	1899	Reorganization of 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery: 1 Battalion in Victoria becomes 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery

with six companies, 2 Battalion in Vancouver becomes 6th Battalion of Rifles.

9 September	1899	Advance party, seven RE submarine miners, leaves England for Esquimalt.
22 September	1899	Advance party of submarine miners arrives in Victoria.
28 September	1899	RMA Detachment, leaves Victoria for England.

## Prologue

The 1893 agreement between Canada and Britain which allowed for both a garrison and new permanent defences at Esquimalt, like many agreements, was a reconciliation of many different points of view. Perhaps the clearest and most consistent view was that of the Royal Navy. Its Pacific Squadron had developed a shore establishment at Esquimalt and the security of the stores and facilities there was considered to be essential to the squadron's operations in time of war. Gun batteries and an adequate garrison would provide this security. There was another view in London, England, which questioned both the importance of Esquimalt and the necessity for the Pacific Squadron. In Victoria and Ottawa the arguments were flavoured with political and economic considerations. The debate ebbed and flowed from as early as 1854 until 1893. The detailed history of those years is recorded elsewhere, only a summary is included here, as a prologue, to set the stage for the history of the Royal Marine Artillery garrison at Esquimalt from 1893 until 1899.

The naval view of the importance of Esquimalt was given definition and emphasis by events during the Crimean War. In the eastern Pacific, British and French naval forces, seeking to cripple the Russian naval force in the area, launched an assault on the Russian naval base at Petropavlosk in the Aleutian Islands in 1854. It was a bloody, ill conducted and indecisive affair. Afterward, the British ships anchored in Esquimalt harbour, then no more than a sheltered, deep water anchorage, to replenish stores, to repair damage caused by shot and shell and to rest sailors and marines. Before the second assault on Petropavlosk a year later, three small wooden hospital huts were constructed at Duntze Head, Esquimalt, on the order of the admiral commanding the Pacific Squadron.

They were, in a sense, a stamp of approval and recognition for Esquimalt's war time importance to the squadron. Other ports the squadron normally used in peacetime, including bases in Callao and Valparaiso were not as convenient as Esquimalt in a war against the most likely enemy in the Pacific, Russia, nor could those ports be counted upon as the squadron could count upon Esquimalt, the only port on British territory.

When the Crimean war was over, the Pacific Squadron quickly reverted to its previous routine policing of British trade and commerce which was far greater in the southern and central eastern Pacific than it was in the northeast. Esquimalt, so far as the Royal Navy was concerned, was once again a remote patrol ship anchorage. Only another war or a serious threat to the security of British interests on the northeast coast of North America could change the degree of naval attention accorded to it.

A serious threat appeared, quite suddenly, in 1858, when thousands of miners moved north from California and the Oregon Territory of the United States to the Fraser river. They carried with them, in sheer weight of numbers as well as in nationality, a threat to British sovereignty. To many among the few British traders and settlers north of the 49th parallel it seemed a repeat of the circumstances which had led previously to American sovereignty over the Oregon territory. If this were not enough, the newcomers brought with them attitudes and reputations which threatened to promote an Indian war and seriously disrupt the fur trade, then the major commercial activity north of the border.

The suddenness, immediacy and size of the crisis called for prompt action by the British authorities in addition to local measures imposed by Governor James Douglas. The Admiralty ordered two warships and 165 men of the Royal Marines Light Infantry from China direct to Esquimalt. With their arrival, the almost coincidental arrival of a similar number of Royal Engineers from England, and more warships of

the Pacific Squadron, Esquimalt assumed a new importance to the navy akin to that it had had in the Crimean War.

The gold rush was extended by discoveries of gold further inland and the territory was opened to trade and settlement behind the miners. It appeared as though the future emphasis for Britain in the eastern Pacific must shift to British Columbia. The admiral commanding the Pacific Squadron perceived this to be so and saw the need to turn Esquimalt into a base for the squadron for both peace and war. Between 1860 and 1867, with Admiralty approval, a major building programme was undertaken at Esquimalt. It included storage facilities for coal, ammunition and supplies, a larger hospital, and machine shops for repair and maintenance. By 1871, after the transfer of staff and stores from the base at Valparaiso, Esquimalt had become a major station for the Pacific Squadron and Admiralty concern that it should be protected from an enemy attack had been expressed in London, England.

The colonial authorities in Victoria were also concerned with defence. They believed that the security of the colonial capital and its chief commercial port was of prime importance to the survival of British interests in the area. They recognized the Royal Navy as the primary provider of this security, but felt that Victoria was often defenceless because the Pacific Squadron's commitment to other duties resulted in the wide dispersion of its ships. A permanent garrison would be much more reassuring. The authorities regularly lobbied the British government for a garrison and for the permanent stationing of warships at Esquimalt.

Behind the genuine fear of attack there was also another motive for applying pressure on London to maintain a base at Esquimalt. Local merchants and government officials were very aware of the important role the base played in the local economy. It provided a ready and stable market and a source of employment; a stable element in the boom and bust

fluctuations of a colonial economy then heavily dependent upon gold rushes.

So strong were these local views that obligations for Ottawa to pursue the matter of defence and for it to make strong representations to the Imperial government for the continuation of the Royal Navy station at Esquimalt were included in the terms of the confederation agreement between Victoria and Ottawa in 1871.

The Dominion government in Ottawa took the first practical step toward meeting its obligations immediately after confederation when it extended its militia organization to include the new province of British Columbia and raised two companies of infantry in Victoria. A second step came two years later when a plan was drawn up at militia headquarters in Ottawa which envisaged coast batteries sited to defend both Esquimalt and Victoria using surplus guns from the Esquimalt naval establishment.

Meanwhile, in the decade of the 1870's, the British Admiralty was facing a new and very serious threat to its naval supremacy over the world's oceans, the result of sweeping technological changes in warship design and operation. The days of the sailing warship were ending. The future warship was clearly going to be a heavily gunned, armoured, coal fired, steam driven vessel. It would no longer be possible to predict the movement of enemy naval forces in accordance with weather, tide and wind; a steam powered warship could now strike at will. The new limiting factor for naval operations was coal supply. Without a secure, sufficient and strategically located supply, the Royal Navy's operations would be severely hampered if not impossible. A world wide network of coaling stations was essential. The Admiralty drew up a list of twelve such stations in 1877, with Esquimalt ranked eighth, and bid for all twelve to be protected with gun batteries against enemy raiders seeking to destroy the vital coal supplies.

Little was done to provide the defences called for be-

fore a crisis occurred in Anglo-Russian affairs which brought the two nations to the brink of war in 1878. In the emergency the authorities in London formed a Colonial Defence Committee, the Milne Committee, after its chairman Admiral Sir Alexander Milne<sup>7</sup>, and charged it with the task of taking immediate steps to provide for the defence of important ports and coaling stations throughout the British Empire. Under its direction, the Admiralty, Dominion authorities and local authorities in Victoria were coordinated in a plan which speedily produced the first coast defence batteries for the protection of Victoria and Esquimalt. The battery earthworks were raised by locally hired labour under the supervision of a Dominion artillery officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D.T. Irwin, appointed by Ottawa and sent from Kingston, Ontario. The Admiralty loaned guns from Esquimalt dockyard. These were mounted in the earthworks and manned by local volunteers formed as the Victoria Battery of Garrison Artillery, a militia unit.

within three months batteries had been established at:

- Finlayson Point - two 64-pdr RML
- Victoria (Nias) Point - two 64-pdr RML
- Macaulay Point - three 7-inch RML
- Brothers (Deadmans) Island - two 64-pdr RML

It was no mean feat to accomplish the task in so short a time when all communication and travel routes to Victoria and Esquimalt ran through the United States to the west and then north from San Francisco by sea.

Russian and Britain did not go to war. As soon as the crisis was over, the British government began a search for a more permanent solution to the problem of defending the coaling stations and ports of the empire. A Royal Commission was appointed in 1879, the Carnarvon Commission after its chairman Lord Carnarvon. It met regularly during the next three years in London, hearing a considerable body of evidence from military, naval and armament experts, politicians, civil servants and others, and published its recommendations in a series of reports.

Esquimalt was a particularly difficult problem for the commission because of the divergence of views expressed at the commission's hearings. The Admiralty viewed the naval station at Esquimalt as being essential to the operations of the Pacific Squadron in peace and particularly in war. A contrasting view, stemming from a comparison of trade and commerce figures for all areas of the Empire, saw little of value in the eastern Pacific that warranted considerable expense on defence and suggested that the Royal Navy's Pacific Squadron itself was unnecessary. The squadron could be dispersed and its Esquimalt station could be abandoned. Then there was the evidence of a more political nature given by Sir John A. Macdonald, the Canadian prime minister. He described a developing Canadian nation committed to completing a trans continental railway which would be a considerable contribution to empire defence because it would provide a speedier reinforcement route to the Pacific and the Far East. Such a contribution, it was suggested, could not be ignored when considering any other demands which might be made upon Canada. In Macdonalds' view it would be foolish for the Imperial government to abandon Esquimalt because the new railway would bring a new importance and prosperity to the area with a transit port on the strategic route and grain shipments from the Canadian prairie. It was also important, Macdonald felt, that the commission should consider the fact that the Canadian government had promised British Columbia, as a term of Confederation, that it would press for the British retention of the naval base at Esquimalt and for the defence of both Esquimalt and Victoria. With Canadian resources already committed to the strategically important railway, this promise could only be fulfilled with the help of the British government. To deny support would be to damage the fabric of Canadian confederation. Macdonald was pressing very hard with political, and economic arguments and with appeals to the Imperial conscience for the continuation of the Royal Navy presence in Esquimalt at a minimal cost to the



Dominion. Finally, the commission was presented with more technical arguments from military, naval and armament experts about the scale and type of defence needed at Esquimalt. Some argued for a heavily gunned fortress which could be expected to hold out in the face of a full scale American attack, at least until relieved by a force using **the** new railway across Canada. Others argued that Esquimalt would be indefensible in the face of a serious American attack, that the railway link could easily be cut by small raiding parties, and that Esquimalt need only be defended by guns of sufficient calibre and quantity to protect **it** from a raiding force of no more than one or two modern Russian cruisers.

The Carnarvon Commission's report and recommendations reflected the diverse views expressed at its hearings. The Commission suggested that the Pacific Squadron should be moved to the China station and Esquimalt naval station be abandoned, but added the rider that if the Dominion government felt that Esquimalt should be maintained as a station of the Pacific Squadron and would furnish the garrison and the defence works, then the Imperial government should provide the armament and professional assistance **for** the completion of the works. But the commission was **not** unanimous in this. Two commission members, one of whom was Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, the Royal Navy's member, could not concur with the commission's view and, in a joint statement included in the commission's report, declared that the Pacific Squadron and Esquimalt naval station should be retained and the latter be defended at a moderate outlay.

The commission's report, in effect, merely transferred the arguments about Esquimalt to the British government for resolution. The government chose a position which offended noone but postponed the provision of defences. It did not deny the Admiralty's view that **it** was important to retain both the Pacific Squadron and the naval station at Esquimalt, a position satisfactory to the Canadian government and the province of British Columbia as well as the Admiralty. It appeased

those who argued that the area was not economically important enough to warrant defence expenditure by taking no immediate steps to provide defences, but, nevertheless, it did not discourage the War Office, directly responsible for the provision of coaling station defences, from proceeding with the planning of suitable coast defences for Esquimalt in anticipation of a future requirement.

The postponement of practical steps to provide Esquimalt with defences lasted until 1885 when the reconstituted Colonial Defence Committee, in the shadow of another crisis in Anglo-Russian affairs, took note of two new factors, the impending completion of the trans-Canada railway and of the new dry dock at Esquimalt, concluded that British Columbia was about to enter a period of greater economic importance, and suggested to the British government that the time had now arrived to upgrade the defences of Esquimalt. The suggestion was accepted and a plan based on the Carnarvon Commission's proposal for cost sharing was sent to Ottawa. The Dominion government accepted the plan in principle and suggested that Britain should also contribute to the garrison by supplying, and bearing the cost of, a detachment of marines. A more detailed plan was then worked out in London and sent to Ottawa in 1888.

A remarkable four years of argument and delay followed. In the detailed plan, Britain proposed specific batteries and armaments, detailed the sharing of costs and suggested a garrison of British marines to be paid for by Canada. While the plan was being prepared in London, the Canadian government raised C Battery Canadian Artillery in Ontario and sent it to Esquimalt as the Canadian contribution to a regular garrison there. When the detailed plan arrived from England the Dominion government rejected the suggestion of a marine garrison at Canadian expense, pointing out that it had already provided C Battery. The rejection was reinforced by accusations of lack of good faith in the negotiations on the part of Britain and of failure to appreciate Canada's contribu-

tion. In retrospect, the rejection was reasonable, although the result of a misunderstanding by both parties to the negotiations, but the force of the rejection seems excessive unless it was deliberately conceived for some ulterior motive. The British reply simply acknowledged the contribution of C Battery, pointed out that it had proved to be quite inadequate to the task, and explained that the marine garrison would replace it, would be quite equal to the task and would cost Canada less to keep at Esquimalt than C Battery had done. Ottawa did not reply and Britain did not press the matter.

Negotiations were resumed as soon as the Canadian government changed on the death of Sir John A. Macdonald. The earlier differences evaporated and an agreement was signed in 1893. The terms were:-

The Dominion Government to provide all sites for works and buildings: to contribute £10,000 towards housing the garrison, the existing barracks being taken at evaluation as part contribution: to pay £30,000 (i.e. half the estimate toward the cost of the works) and to give every assistance in obtaining Chinese labour: to contribute half the cost (subject to a minimum of £500 per annum) of maintenance; to pay the actual cost of the 75 regulars found by the Imperial Government: to keep 100 permanent Canadian Artillery in the eastern province ready to be moved to Esquimalt and to reorganize the local militia. The Imperial Government to construct and maintain the works and buildings, also to provide 75 regulars, the armament, equipment, and submarine mining stores .2

The 75 regulars to be found by the Imperial government were to be Royal Marine Artillery and the 100 permanent Canadian Artillery were to be C Battery Canadian Artillery which was to return to Ontario from Esquimalt. The terms of the agreement

were to be reviewed after a period of 5 years beginning 1 April 1894. The works and armaments, about which there had been almost no discussion, were to be in accordance with a recommendation of the Colonial Defence Committee given on 20 August 1887 which had called for:-

Macaulay Point	three 6-inch BL
Rodd Point	three 6-inch BL
(Probably Sangsters Knoll)	four 9-inch RML adapted for high angle fire
Esquimalt harbour entrance	A submarine minefield protected by two 6-pdr QF.
Field defence	six 16-pdr RML six MGs

Thus the stage had been set for the appearance of a British garrison at Esquimalt and for the construction of permanent defences there.

As soon as the agreement was signed, the British government acted swiftly, sending a Royal Marine Artillery Detachment, and a Royal Engineer officer to supervise construction, of the new batteries, to Esquimalt in time for them to be in position for the starting date of the five year term of the agreement, 1 April 1894.

## RMA Detachment's Assembly and Move from England

The detachment of the Royal Marine Artillery which formed the garrison at Esquimalt from 1893 until 1899 was no ordinary military detachment. Its officers and men belonged to a corps with a long tradition of excellence and to a particular part of that corps which has been described as "...probably the most magnificent body of men the services ever produced." They had volunteered for marine service, survived a rigorous selection process, and undergone extensive military, artillery and specialist training before assembling as a detachment to garrison Esquimalt.

The history of the Royal Marines was already over two hundred years old when the Esquimalt Detachment was formed in 1893.<sup>2</sup> It had begun with the custom of embarking soldiers to fight in naval battles. These sea-soldiers would fight from the rigging and decks of warships, board enemy ships when vessels closed, and assault the enemy on land in a ship to shore engagement. Any regiment of British army infantry could find itself periodically employed in this way aboard ships of the Royal Navy. By 1664, the role had become a specialist one, no longer to be undertaken by any regiment of the line. In that year, the Admiral's Regiment was formed, but the term marine *for* these soldiers does not appear in British records until 1672. A further eighteen years passed before the term was incorporated in their title when two Marine Regiments of Foot were formed. In 1802, His Majesty King George III of England granted the title Royal to the marines and in that year a new scarlet uniform with blue facings was adopted. Two years later the marines were authorised to form Marine Artillery Companies to replace Royal Artillery detachments which had served the guns in bombardment vessels until then. The marines of the new companies wore a blue fatigue uniform while serving the guns and this soon

became the official colour of the marine artillery uniform. Thus, by 1862, The Royal Marines were one corps, divided by role, uniform and title between Royal Marines Light Infantry and Royal Marine Artillery. At that time there were 16 companies of Royal Marine Artillery with a total established strength of 2,700. It is from this division of the Royal Marines, the Royal Marine Artillery, that the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment was formed for service in Esquimalt beginning in 1893. See Appendix A.

Not everyone could become a gunner of the Royal Marine Artillery. A candidate first had to join the Royal Marines. He could only do this if he was between 20 and 30 years of age and could meet the common entry standards for height, intelligence and character. Then, if he was of good physique, not less than 5 feet 8 inches tall, and could pass even higher standards of intelligence and character than those for common entry he could volunteer from the common entry to serve in the Royal Marine Artillery for a term of 12 years with the option to reengage for a further term of service,<sup>3</sup>

The men serving in the detachment at Esquimalt would have been recruited by a Royal Marine recruiting officer or non commissioned officer (N.C.O.) seconded from regular service with the Royal Marines to temporary duty as recruiters, for a period of two or three years, at a District Headquarters in the United Kingdom. For each volunteer they enlisted, a levy of about one pound sterling (£) would have been paid to the recruiter. All recruits were sent by the recruiter, after enlistment, directly to the Royal Marine depot at Deal. Those for the Royal Marine Artillery eventually moved to Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth, for gunnery training.

At the headquarters and depot of the Royal Marine Artillery at Fort Cumberland and Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth, the volunteer underwent recruit training which ordinarily lasted two years. In that time he had to fully qualify and pass inspection in infantry drill and musketry; naval gun

drill and target practice; land service drills applicable to field, garrison and siege artillery; repository work and the construction of infantry field works. By regulations introduced in March 1885 and amended in 1891, those recruits who passed the tests in naval gunnery with a rating of not less than good entered the Royal Marine Artillery as gunners second class with pay of one shilling and four pence per diem. Those who did not achieve the rating reverted to the Royal Marines Light Infantry. A gunner second class advanced to gunner first class when he had completed a sea service course with a rating of good. Then, and only then, could he receive full daily pay.<sup>4</sup>

If the standards for the men were high, those for the officers were even higher. In 1811, fifty per cent of recruit gunners were failing to qualify whereas over a period of four years in the 1880's there were 19 failures in an entry of 26 officers. Potential officers were required to be between 16 and 18 years old, not less than 5 feet 5 inches tall, of pure European descent and the sons of natural born British subjects or of parents naturalised in the United Kingdom. It was necessary to pass a medical board for physical fitness and to submit a certificate of swimming ability. After passing a written entry examination, the candidate was appointed second lieutenant and entered the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, for two years of study followed by further studies at H.M.S. Vernon and H.M.S. Excellent, the Royal Navy's torpedo and mining, and gunnery schools at Portsmouth. When this training was successfully completed, the new officer was promoted lieutenant, retroactive from the end of his first year of studies with seniority in the rank in accordance with the total marks gained in examinations over the full period. The newly promoted lieutenant then underwent further courses in infantry drill, gun drill and military duties at the headquarters of the Royal Marine Artillery during which he became familiar with every type of gun in land and sea service. Only after a total of almost

four years of training from entry, the first three of which were probationary, was the Royal Marine Artillery subaltern considered fit to command a detachment.<sup>5</sup>

With this background of training there was little difficulty in selecting officers and men with the particular artillery skills and knowledge for garrison duty at Esquimalt. But the plan for the new permanent coastal defences at Esquimalt included a submarine minefield as well as coast defence batteries. Certain of the officers and men selected were therefore given further training by the Royal Engineers before leaving England.<sup>6</sup> The Royal Engineers at that time were responsible for the new military science of coastal defence submarine mining. First, 31 marines completed the submarine mining recruits course at Gosport. From them, two were selected and trained on a long course of 22 months at Chatham to qualify as Military Mechanist Electricians. Two officers, Lieutenants G.E. Barnes and F.N. Temp-ler, completed the Royal Engineers officer's course in submarine mining. All of this training was intended to provide the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment with a skilled submarine mining section to establish, maintain and operate the minefield proposed for the entrance to Esquimalt harbour. To assist them in their work they were expected to train local militiamen assigned to submarine mining duties.

The submarine miners of the detachment were ready long before the Anglo-Canadian agreement of 1893. At Eastney Barracks they lived with other marines in austere accomodation in barrack blocks built in the 1860's which were gas lit and lacked toilets. Two, sometimes three, meals per day were eaten at the tables in the barrack rooms. The main meal of meat, vegetables, bread and tea was eaten at midday. Each man was subject to a daily stoppage from his pay to help pay for the daily ration of 1 pound of bread and 3/4 pound of meat provided by the government and for the extras of tea, coffee, vegetables etc. provided by the unit. Gunnery took precedence over all other forms of drill practice and was



conducted on a mock up of a ships deck, in a drill shed, at nearby Fort Cumberland and at gun sites on the shore. For recreation there was sport, the canteen in barracks and the town outside the barrack gate. Late and weekend passes were issued but had to be earned. Every Sunday there was a ceremonial church parade in barracks and every week was a constant round of inspections. When the orders finally came for the move to Esquimalt the submarine miners must have greeted them with a strong sense of relief that at last they were to do the task they were specially trained for.<sup>7</sup>

The marines of the submarine mining section were the first to be sent to Esquimalt. Lieutenant Templer was in command with Lieutenant Barnes to assist him. The group of 19 all ranks acted as an advance party for the remainder of the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment. See Appendix B Nominal Rolls. A brief sentence in the Victoria Daily Colonist announced their departure from England:

Advice was received here yesterday that the first detachment of Royal Marine Artillery for Victoria left England on August 1, and they may therefore be expected to arrive in about three weeks time.. 8

On 15 August, 1893, it was reported that Lieutenant Templer's party had passed through Ottawa the previous day. Three days later, on Friday evening, 18 August, they disembarked from the steamer Premier in Victoria, after passage from Vancouver, and immediately marched out to Work Point Barracks to relieve C Battery Canadian Artillery.<sup>9</sup> The hand-over of duties, barracks, guns and earthworks occupied the next day.<sup>10</sup> At midnight, 19 August, C Battery left Victoria aboard the Premier for Vancouver and the rail journey east.

The changover, particularly the departure of the first Canadian garrison the city had ever known, was an occasion which Victoria's citizens could not let pass without celebration. The small advance guard of marines slipped in quietly. By contrast, C Battery marched out along streets lined with crowds. The procession to the wharf in Victoria

harbour was led by the band of HMS Royal Arthur. At the dockside, Colonel Prior, Commanding Officer of the B.C. Battalion of Garrison Artillery, the city's militia gunner unit, made a farewell speech. Colonel Holmes, the former Deputy Adjutant-General of Military District No. 11, who was leaving with C Battery, replied. As the mooring lines of the Premier were slipped the crowd on the dock sang Auld Lang Syne and their cheers and shouts followed the departing garrison out of the harbour. 11

C Battery had left a small but adequate barracks at Work Point for the Marines. See Figure 18 for plan. There was accommodation for 108 men in three single story wooden buildings. Each building had two rooms for the men, a sergeants room, two washrooms and a furnace in the basement which provided hot air warmth. Latrines were in a separate building several hundred yards away at the end of a jetty stretching beyond the low water line of the bay. There was a separate cookhouse. Alongside the barrack gate, a substantial wooden affair under an arch, there was a guard room, with a recreation room nearby. Opposite the guard room, stood a long low building containing 10 married quarters. Ancilliary buildings in the barracks included a store, magazine, canteen, wagon sheds and stables, a hospital and a boat house. Two large open areas, the parade ground and the recreation ground were prominent. Officer's accommodation was separated from the remainder of the buildings at the back, or southside, of the barracks.

For the score of marines in Work Point Barracks the next eight months were not easy. With so few men there was little that could be accomplished except guard duty and daily maintenance of guns, equipment and barracks. Everyone was fully occupied with routine tasks. The Daily Colonist sympathised; "Guard duty although not hard work, is wearying when a man has twelve hours of it at a time."12 There was little change when, in the last weeks of August, a small group of Royal Engineers arrived from England to

establish a works office in the barracks, or when Major H. H. Muirhead RE, who was to supervise the construction of permanent fortifications, arrived in September. When the news broke in February 1894 that the main body of marines would arrive a month later,<sup>13</sup> the advance guard in Work Point Barracks must have felt a great sense of relief that the end of their onerous duties was in sight at last.

The main body of the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment, 55 all ranks commanded by Major G.A.L. Rawstone, who was accompanied by his wife and her maid, left Liverpool, England, aboard the Allen Line steamer Laurentian for Halifax, Canada, on 8 March 1894.<sup>14</sup> From Halifax the detachment continued their journey by rail.

The move across Canada did not go unnoticed by the citizens and the newspapers of towns along the line. When the detachment reached Quebec after crossing by ferry from Levis in a heavy snowstorm it was reported:

The men were in heavy marching order, with overcoats strapped and without any protection from the weather other than the waterproof cape covering their shoulders. They, of course, wear the Artillery uniform and white helmets, and the only difference between them and our own troops is that they wear white woollen gloves and have no spikes in their boots to give them a foothold in the **snow**. In spite of this they marched **as** steadily as if they had been accustomed to snow roads all their lives. Although by their sunburned faces it was clear that they had been accustomed to warmer climates than that of Canada. They are fine, tall, well-built men, every one of them, and would be a credit to any Service. A more soldierlike body never trod the streets of Quebec.<sup>15</sup>

The march to the waiting Canadian Pacific Railway cars was short, about a quarter of a mile. On arrival the men were provided with supper while Major Rawstone and Surgeon J.C.

Wood R.N., who was travelling with the Detachment, paid a formal courtesy call on Colonel Montezambert, commandant at the Citadel, and afterward dined with Mrs. Rawstone at the Chateau Frontenac.<sup>16</sup>

In Montreal next day, the 22nd March, in better weather, the detachment marched again in full equipment, this time for a greater distance. Along the route the statue of Queen Victoria in Victoria square was saluted. The march ended at the fire station where officers and men witnessed a practice alarm. The men showed their approval "...by thumping the floor with their rifles."<sup>17</sup> Some of them slid down the brass poles in the fire house, as the firemen had done during their demonstration, and fire fighting equipment was inspected. The march back to the railway station was briefly interrupted to allow a visit to the militia headquarters. The detachment left Montreal at 4:50 p.m.

Brief bulletins in the Victoria Daily Colonist heralded the further progress of the marines across Canada. At 1 a.m. on 29 March 1894, they disembarked from the Premier in Victoria harbour after passage from Vancouver. They were conveyed to Work Point Barracks aboard two large street cars of the electric railway to join their comrades of the advance party.<sup>18</sup> See Appendix B for Nominal Rolls.

A report on the whole journey across Canada was completed shortly afterward by Major Rawstone. Its military brevity contrasts sharply with the enthusiastic, complimentary and often lengthy reports in Canadian newspapers. See Appendix C for Rawstone's report.

Thus on 1 April 1894, the commencement date of the five year agreement between Canada and Britain for the defence of Esquimalt, the British garrison, a Royal Marine Artillery Detachment, and the Royal Engineer officer who was to supervise the construction of the new defences it was to man, were already installed in Work Point Barracks,

Esquimalt. The detachment was a fully trained body of men selected from a corps with a long tradition of excellence. They had arrived quietly with little ceremony, but they had already impressed those who had seen them with their bearing and discipline. It remained to be seen how they would fare through five years of garrison duty and what effect they would have.

## Garrison Duty

The immediate duties of the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment at Esquimalt with regard to the defences were few. Training of the militia would soon be a major responsibility, but first, the detachment had to settle in at Work Point Barracks; put its own house in order and establish its-daily barrack routines. Then it needed to establish links with the community of which it was a part. It would support the garrison and community church in Victoria West, participate in ceremonial occasions, compete in sport and combine with local citizens in social celebration. These activities would occupy much of its time, perhaps more time than that spent on strictly military tasks. It was not wasted time, nor purely leisure, for it was during these activities that the community could most easily judge the garrison, a time when mutual respect and understanding could be fostered which would make cooperation in military training and the sharing of defence responsibilities much easier. In retrospect, this part of the detachments garrison life is a mass of diverse detail. It is recorded in this chapter by sample, highlight and brief description only.

Life for the single gunner in barracks was not at all unpleasant. He was comfortably housed on ground level quarters at the shore of a tidal bay. A short walk from his quarters there was a recreation room where he was able to read papers and books and perhaps play a game of billiards or cards. The canteen sold beer at a cheaper price than at any establishment outside the barracks and sometimes there were canteen concerts for his entertainment. Each day was punctuated by bugle calls signalling various events: reveille, parades, guard duties, daily tasks, meals, first and last post and lights out. Within this ordered schedule the gunner completed fatigue duties, practiced military skills,

underwent inspections, took exercise and finished any task assigned to him by his NCO's and officers. Some men had specialist duties to perform, spending most of their time as bootmaker, tailor or cook. See Appendix B. Breakfast and the midday meal were fetched from the cookhouse and eaten in the barrack rooms. At the end of the day, if a man was hungry, he could buy food, probably at the recreation room and most likely a local version of the fare he could get in barracks in England:-

...very good uncomplicated food such as rock cakes, slab cake, tea and coffee for about a penny a time, and huge pastries as big as saucers, heaped high with shredded coconut - a meal in themselves, for two pence ...if you were rich they could provide sausage and mash or something similar, with bread tea or coffee, for a few coppers. 1

If a man became ill, or suffered injury, he received immediate attention in barracks from the detachment's own naval surgeon, and if his illness warranted it he could be accommodated in the barrack hospital. Every Sunday the whole detachment paraded for church service and then had the rest of the day free except for individuals on essential duties. It was a busy life, organized in a balance of work, exercise and recreation, with full participation expected.

After the fortifications were constructed at Macaulay point and at Rodd Hill, and the 6-inch disappearing guns were mounted there, a new duty was added to the detachment's routine. A bombardier and two gunners were assigned to each place as caretakers. During their tour of duty they were responsible for guarding the buildings, armament and stores, and for completing routine maintenance tasks. The armament had to be kept in working condition and magazine ventilation required regular adjustment in accordance with temperature. Each out-fort detachment was regularly visited and inspected by the detachment's officers and NCO's and periodically received rations, mail and other necessities. It prepared its own meals. The men on this duty lived in the guard room

at Macaulay Point and in the Warrant Officers Quarter at Rodd Hill.

During their off duty hours the marines were not confined to Work Point Barracks. Passes were issued. With one a Marine could visit the local towns of Esquimalt and Victoria in uniform. There, with his weekly pay in his pocket, free for a few short hours from the sheltered routine of barrack life he could indulge in any of the temptations offered by bars, eating houses, brothels, shops, theatres and the chinese gambling dens of Fan Tan Alley.

In spite of the array of temptations, few off-duty disciplinary problems occurred. Debt appears to have been the most serious. Major Rawstone had taken the normal precaution of publishing the following notice in the local newspaper several times in the few days immediately after the detachment's arrival:

NOTICE

I hereby give notice, that if landlords or other inhabitants of the city of Victoria, B.C. and the neighbourhood, suffer the soldiers under my command to contract debts such debts will not be discharged. If after this proclamation the inhabitants shall, notwithstanding, suffer the soldiers to contract debts with them, it will be at their own peril the officers not being obliged to discharge such debts. Vide Queens Regulations and orders for the army, A.D. 1893.

Signed G.A.L. Rawstone  
Major R.M.A. The Barracks  
Victoria, B.C.  
31 March 1894<sup>2</sup>

Nevertheless, there were six desertions from the detachment between 1893 and 1896 which were attributed to debt.

It is not known how many *of* the detachment were married. Those that were but were not listed as on strength within the detachment's quota could not expect any help from the service for the transport and housing of their families.



The record shows that the detachment did have 10 wives and eighteen children with it at Work Point Barracks in 1895. Mrs. Rawstorne and her maid travelled out to Esquimalt with her husband Major Rawstorne and the main body of the detachment in 1894. The remaining nine wives and eighteen children were assembled in Liverpool, England, on 20 May 1895. They sailed the next day aboard the Assyrian for Halifax, Nova Scotia, and from there crossed Canada by rail in a special tourist railcar, passing through Winnipeg on 6 June, to be met in Vancouver on 9 June.<sup>3</sup> At Esquimalt they were housed in the block of quarters just inside the main gate of Work Point Barracks.

Their new quarters were not luxurious by today's standards, but they compared favourably with other quarters of the day. In the long wooden building just inside the barrack gate, each family had two rooms and a separate entrance; a town house, in modern terms, of two rooms. One of the rooms had a cooking stove and sink. Later a third small room was added to each quarter, probably as a separate bedroom for children. A line of separate buildings opposite the quarters housed essential communal facilities; a wood store, a laundry, an ash bin, a men's latrine and a women's latrine.

The life of the women and children in the barracks moved to the tempo of the detachment itself. Families received some rations but had to provide many food items themselves. It is quite possible that some of the wives and older children found some paid employment within the barrack with which to help out the family income, taking on such tasks as laundry, cleaning, or assistance to the tailor or bootmaker. Such employment was not uncommon at other stations, but may have been restricted at Esquimalt because of the availability of cheap Chinese labour. Families attended many of the social and sporting activities in the barracks, particularly when the general public was invited, and no doubt helped with many of the preparations for them.

When a wife or child was sick the detachment's Surgeon would attend at no charge.

Although the families were confined to Work Point Barracks by virtue of their residence there and by limited finances, they were not shut off from contact with the local civilian population. A tramcar service between Victoria and Esquimalt ran close to the barrack gate making it easy to reach the city and its shops for the price of a fare. Children of school age attended Victoria West school outside the barracks and the detachment's strong link with St. Saviour's church brought the families into contact with the church community of Victoria West. It is certain that many friendships were formed.

There were other ways in which the life of the garrison in the barracks extended into the local community. The links were important. They were the means by which the community could assess its garrison. It is a matter of historical record that the detachment quickly gained, and retained, favour and respect.

The first opportunity for the public to judge came just three days after the arrival of the main body of the detachment. For the Marines it was a routine Sunday church parade, for the citizens it was something quite extraordinary. The detachment formed on the barrack square in Work Point Barracks with their officers at their head and then, to music of their own drum and fife band, they marched out of the barrack gate a distance of one and a half miles to St. Saviour's church in Victoria West, the garrison church, to attend Sunday morning service.<sup>4</sup> Officer's and men were dressed in blue ceremonial uniform with white helmets. There is no doubt that the drill and marching was well up to the standard for which the Royal Marine artillery was justly famous. It was the first of many regular Sunday church parades in the next five years and the first ceremonial occasion when the bearing, dress and drill of the detachment impressed and delighted the local populace.

There were four more ceremonial occasions in the first four months of the detachment's residence in Work Point Bar-

racks. On two occasions, on 14 June and on 21 August, the marines marched in funeral processions through the streets of Victoria, first for the funeral of Chief Justice Matthew Baillie Begbie and then for the funeral of Captain Smallfield, a well known and popular officer of the local militia. In November the Governor-General of Canada visited Victoria. The Daily Colonist reported:-

One of the events yesterday afternoon [8 November 1894] was the inspection of the Royal Marine Artillery by His Excellency at Government House. The company headed by their fife and drum band and dressed in heavy marching order, marched up to the Government House grounds in the afternoon and were put through a number of movements before the vice-regal party. The men looked smart and neat and their drilling was excellent. Though the roads were very muddy the men marched on to the grounds as clean as if they had just stepped out of their barracks even to their boots. The Governor-General complimented Colonel Rawstone highly on the fine appearance of his men.<sup>5</sup>

Later the same month the detachment provided a guard of honour for the opening of the provincial legislature. On this occasion the newspaper commented "...the movements were executed with machine like precision and alacrity."<sup>6</sup> Such remarks were repeated many times in the next five years for the standard of ceremonial set in the early months never declined.

Two local annual celebrations, Dominion Day and the Queen's birthday, always demanded major participation. A notable occasion of the type occurred in 1895. A sham fight was to take place on 25 May as the "most interesting feature of the Three Days Celebration"<sup>7</sup> of the Queen's birthday in Victoria that year. Lieutenant-Colonel Rawstone, prepared the general public for the spectacle in a letter to The Daily Colonist on 23 May, outlining the military programme

and explaining the manoeuvres which would take place in public on Beacon Hill in Victoria.' On the day, fortunately a dry one after many days of rain, the troops assembled in a series of processions to the fringes of Beacon Hill Park. Some 500 sailors from Royal Navy ships in Esquimalt travelled by tram to the power house, then marched behind the band of HMS Royal Arthur via Moss Street, to the point of attack from the Oak Bay direction. The Royal Marine Artillery garrison of Esquimalt, together with a company of the Royal Marines Light Infantry from Royal Navy warships in the harbour, marched through Victoria, in a separate procession, behind their own drum and fife band, to establish a line of sentries and picquets below the crest of Beacon Hill. A third procession brought the militia artillerymen behind their own band to the crest of the hill, to form the main defence. When all the troops were in position, the attack was launched by bugle calls. The marine sentries fired blank ammunition and then joined the picquets who retreated, firing as they went, to join the main defence at the top of the hill. The many thousands of spectators lining the **slopes** of Beacon Hill cheered their favourites, were deafened by the volley fire of the defenders and the independent fire of the attackers, and afterwards were treated to another spectacle when all of the participants paraded on the James Bay side of Beacon Hill for a march past. Admiral Stevenson, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Station, took the salute, with Lieutenant-General Dewdney and Japanese Consul Nosse on the saluting stand. Next day, a memorandum from the Admiral to the military commander commented "the Royal Marine detachments under Lieutenant-Colonel Rawstorne were not to be surpassed in appearance or steadiness during the day."<sup>9</sup> The local press and populace were ecstatic in their praise.

A more informal contact was maintained between the marines, the local militia and citizens on the sports field. Individual marines and sometimes a complete team participa-

ted in lacrosse, soccer, rugby, cycling, tennis, sailing, canoeing, rifle shooting and trapshooting. The officers were largely responsible for the construction and management of a new golf course just outside the barrack gate. Cricket was played regularly throughout the summer on a pitch laid out and carefully tended within the barracks. Tug of war was a popular local sport and the marines frequently pulled against local teams. In all these endeavours the emphasis in marine participation was on sportsmanship, as Major Rawstone made clear very soon after the detachment's arrival, in a letter to the Sporting Editor of the Local paper:-

In your impression of Saturday, June 2, there appears a notice to the effect that the R.M.A. challenge the Victoria Fire Brigade to complete a tug of war. I beg to inform you that the notice was written and inserted in your paper by a civilian. A challenge couched in such "bad form" would never have emanated from these barracks, and although my men were disappointed in not meeting the Fire Brigade on the occasion of the celebration of the Queen's Birthday the idea of pulling the Fire Brigade for "any amount of money" as the notice is gratefully worded, would not be according to the custom of the RMA who compete more for sport and honour than money.<sup>10</sup>

Such a letter undoubtedly won a great deal of support and respect for the detachment from a large section of the population.

There were other links between the men of the garrison and the local community which were forged through the garrison church. Within a month of the first Sunday church parade, St. Saviour's church held a fund raising entertainment evening under the patronage of Major Rawstone with a programme of songs, recitations, music and demonstrations of bayonet, musical and physical drill by the marines.<sup>11</sup> When

another fund raising event was held in November 1894 the local newspaper acknowledged marine participation with:-

To Gunner Ayton and twelve other members of the Royal Marine Artillery the Ladies Aid and Guild of St. Saviour's church owe in a great measure the success of their bazaar and entertainment in Fairall's Hall, Victoria West, yesterday afternoon and evening. In the first place the artistic manner in which the hall had been decorated for the ladies bazaar was due to the soldiers, while part two of the evenings programme was entirely under their charge and was handled to the satisfaction of all who were fortunate enough to hear it...<sup>12</sup>

And it was not necessary to have a fund raising imperative for an enjoyable evening:-

A surprise party, over 200 strong and headed by the fife and drum band of St. Saviour's church, Victoria West, [the Marine band out of uniform?') stormed the racquet court at the barracks, Esquimalt, last evening, and was heartily received and entertained. The party was gotten up by Mr. and Mrs. Crocker and Mrs. Furnival whose arrangements for the affair were complete in every detail. When the party dispersed at midnight a car in waiting conveyed them to their homes in the city. By the kind permission of the officers of the barracks the mens time was extended. The amusements furnished during the evening were greatly enjoyed. A good musical programme, inclusive of orchestral contributions was rendered, dancing was largely indulged in and refreshments were abundantly served. The Quartermaster-sergeant extended a warm welcome to the party and said he hoped such events would frequently be repeated, in reply to which Mrs.

Furnival, in a short address assured him that another similar meeting would shortly be held.<sup>13</sup>

The close contact with the Victoria West community did not diminish.

It did not take long before the social contact had extended to embrace the whole Victoria area. Sometimes it was a personal invitation to join a family for a meal, a celebration or for a tennis afternoon. At other times the occasions were more formal and bigger. Probably one of the best remembered of the larger affairs, when the marines were hosts, occurred on 24 January 1899, in the last year of the detachment's tour of duty. It was held in the racquet court at the barracks and was hosted by Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Engineers warrant officers and non-commissioned officers. A large number of guests were invited including officers of the garrison, warrant, petty and non-commissioned officers of the Royal Navy ships and dockyard, non-commissioned officers of the 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment Canadian Artillery, Victoria's militia-gunners, and many prominent citizens. Afterward it was reported:-

The Racquet Court was artistically decorated... a somewhat lengthy programme arranged (vocal musical and dancing) ...everything was done to please the eyes and delight of the company present, and render the evening an enjoyable one ...The excellent state of the floor, which though small, is one of the best in Victoria, giving great satisfaction...A plentiful supply of refreshments was handed round...The guests departed about 2:15 a.m. after expressing themselves as being highly delighted at having had an opportunity of spending such an enjoyable evening ...<sup>14</sup>

The whole affair had been managed by a committee of four NCO's three of them marines, appointed by a mess membership of not more than 20.

Many of the marines who enjoyed the evening at the racquet court had served with the detachment since its arrival

in 1893, but there had been some changes among its personnel. Major W.F. Trotter commanded the detachment in 1899 having taken over from Lieutenant-Colonel Rawstorne in 1897. Captain F.N. Templer left in 1895 on sick leave to eventually die of his illness in South Africa. Lieutenant G.R. Poole replaced him. Surgeon A.G.S. Bell R.N. relieved Surgeon J.C. Wood R.N. in December 1894 as the detachment's doctor. Almost half of the other ranks of the detachment changed during the period 1893-99 although most of the submarine miners, specially trained for duty at Esquimalt, stayed for the whole period. Those who left did so for a variety of reasons, for example: completion of service engagement; local discharge by purchase in at least one case - Gunner John Fry; death in one case - Gunner Herbert Reynolds; and the normal transfer of marines to sea duty. There were six desertions during the first three years and one man is known to have been embarked for misconduct. Replacements came out from England or from shipboard duty with the Pacific Squadron. The comings and goings were no more than a steady trickle until the detachment's tour of duty was extended when it was necessary to replace some twenty men, time expired with a draft from England.

There is no doubt that the overwhelming majority of the officers and men of the detachment left Esquimalt with considerable regret. During their stay, they lived comfortably in Work Point Barracks and led an active garrison life. By their conduct they earned the favour and respect of the local community. The strong links established between garrison and community were mutually beneficial and mutually enjoyable. They made it easier for the detachment to complete its duties with the militia.



## Construction of the Defences

The agreement signed by Britain and Canada in 1893 provided for the construction of new permanent defences for Esquimalt. Before the agreement was signed a scale of armaments had been decided upon in London, England, after consultation between the Admiralty, the War Office and the General Officer Commanding, Canada, and site plans had been drawn up. As a condition of the agreement, Britain was responsible for appointing a supervising engineer and for construction of the necessary defence works. It was confidently expected that the defences could be completed within three years. In practice this proved to be an overly optimistic forecast.

The British office having overall responsibility for the construction of the new defences for Esquimalt was that of the Inspector General of Fortifications at the War Office. That office appointed Major Herbert Hugh Muirhead, Royal Engineers, as the supervising engineer. He sailed from Liverpool, England, on the Parisian on 17 August 1893,<sup>1</sup> spent a few days in Ottawa at militia headquarters discussing the plans for the defences he carried with him, and then continued his journey to Victoria where he took up temporary residence at the Dallas hotel on 3 September.

A small technical staff had arrived a few days earlier to establish a Royal Engineer (RE) Works Office in Work Point Barracks. They had been sent out from England, the last of them, Quartermaster Sergeant G. Reeve, joining on 29 August.<sup>2</sup> The first recorded public action of the new office was a newspaper call for tenders for land and water transportation on 3 February 1894.<sup>3</sup> At that time, and for the rest of the year, the staff worked in temporary accommodation until a new building, authorized on 10 March 1894 by the War Office, was completed, at a cost of £60, on 31 December 1894.<sup>4</sup>

The original idea was to build the fortifications with a work force of Chinese labourers and Royal Engineer artificers

and supervisors. Cost estimates in the agreement were based on this premise and the intention persisted until the end of 1893. But it proved to be impossible in practice. The local economy was depressed. Many white workers were unemployed. In these circumstances preferential recruiting of Chinese labour would have inflamed local racial tensions. Even the mere possibility that Chinese labour might be hired was enough for questions to be asked in Victoria's daily papers and in the federal parliament. The questions were answered by a local newspaper investigation and report, which revealed only two Chinese employed by the garrison<sup>5</sup>, and by federal ministers in parliament who denied there was any cause for concern about British intentions.<sup>6</sup> By the spring of 1894 the original idea of employing Chinese had been abandoned. Instead, white day labour was hired to construct the defences, supervised by Royal Engineers. A measure of the delicacy of the situation, and of the relief the change in policy brought, is to be seen in a brief reference in the report submitted by the Major General Commanding the Canadian Militia after visiting Esquimalt in December 1894:- "...it is pleasing to note that recourse to alien labour has not been necessary."<sup>7</sup>

The Royal Engineer element of the work force reached Esquimalt in May 1894. Lieutenant H.W. Gordon and 20 sappers of 18 Company Royal Engineers stationed in Halifax, Nova Scotia, were assigned to temporary duty constructing the defences. They arrived in Victoria aboard the Premier from Vancouver on 1 May 1894 and were accommodated in Work Point Barracks despite a mild protest from the Admiralty.<sup>8</sup> As a detachment they would remain at least five years although there was some replacement of individuals, including the commander, Lieutenant Gordon, who was relieved by Lieutenant G.C.E. Elliott on 1 November 1897. The detachment was grouped with the personnel of the Works Office under the overall command of Major Muirhead.

Major Muirhead's first task was to secure the necessary sites for the new works. The site of the temporary battery at Macaulay Point, already in federal hands, was transferred to

the British War Department for "so long as it was required for defence purposes."<sup>9</sup> On 5 September 1894, notice was given of the expropriation of nearby Sea View Road and a portion of Stephenson Road lying south of Vaughan Street to expand the site. A short distance away, at the base of Signal Hill on Esquimalt Harbour, land was purchased for the new submarine mining and army ordnance establishments. The total cost of the Macaulay and Signal Hill sites was \$52,900.11, (L10869.17.9).<sup>10</sup> Canada payed. On the west side of Esquimalt harbour, at Rodd Hill, some 38 acres owned by Cecilia E. Young since her purchase of it from the Hudson's Bay Company on 4 December 1861, was purchased also by the Canadian government at a cost of \$3800 (L780.16.5) on 26 November 1894.<sup>11</sup> This was enough to allow construction of the two 6-inch batteries scheduled for the site. The Belmont House (farm) property of 6 4/10 acres was added to the Young property on 5 June 1899, expanding the Rodd Hill site inland and along the harbour shore to the Belmont road and jetty to provide a summer training area.<sup>12</sup> In retrospect, the whole process of site acquisition seems to have been inordinately slow, but it did not delay the work of constructing the new batteries.

The old temporary defences were dismantled. The first old battery to go was that at Macaulay Point. By June 1894, its 7-inch RML guns had been removed. They were to be returned to England. Next, between June and December, the guns were removed from Brothers Island and the works there were levelled. The 3-inch RML gun of the battery was shipped to England and the two 64-pounder RML's were sent to Vancouver and New Westminster for drill purposes.<sup>13</sup> The two 64-pounders stand outside the Beatty Street armoury in Vancouver today. The Victoria Point and Finlayson Point batteries were retained for drill purposes for a number of years<sup>14</sup>, probably until the militia were trained on the new 6-inch disappearing guns and had fired them in November 1898. The eventual fate of the four guns of these batteries is not known, but there is strong evidence that one of them was transferred to the drill hall on Menzies Street, Victoria, and when it was no longer of use it was buried immediately behind the hall.

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The first new battery to be constructed was the key battery at Macaulay Point. Authority for the work to start had been given to Major Muirhead on 14 August 1893, three days before he left England. The task of levelling the old earthworks and of preparing the whole site was started on 28 February 1894. The pace increased after the arrival of the Detachment of 18 Company and construction machinery which included a rock crusher. By 10 June, the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment had dismantled the old 7-inch RML guns and removed them to the dockyard. After the boundaries were finalised in September the site was sealed off from public access. Warning signs and press notices threatened severe penalties for any act of trespass.<sup>15</sup> Construction then began. The work was laborious as considerable quantities of solid rock had to be excavated. Nevertheless, by the end of the summer of 1895 the project had progressed to the point where the majority of the labour force could be transferred to another site.

The authority to begin construction at Rodd Hill, Muirheads' second priority, was given by the War Office on 22 April 1895, shortly after the former Young property there had been purchased. Before any work began on the fortifications an earth fill jetty was built on the harbour side of the property at War Office expense to allow the easy landing of men and material transported across the harbour from Signal Hill. Construction of the lower of the two batteries at Rodd Hill began on 6 September 1895.

The new works at both Macaulay Point and Rodd Hill were armed in 1896-7. The first 6-inch MK VI gun on a MK IV disappearing mounting had arrived from England on 10 December 1894. On Thursday March 5, 1896, the Daily Colonist of Victoria reported:

The especially heavy C.P.R. cars loaded with cannon and ammunition for the land fortifications at Esquimalt left Halifax ten days ago, having been brought across the Atlantic by the steamship St. John City. There are five pieces of ordnance of

the latest six-inch long "Mark IV H.P. disappearing class, each of which is stamped R.C.D. IV - 1890 cwt., Reg No. A.792, W.D. n16

They were unloaded from the steamship Charmer in Victoria harbour on March 12. Master Gunner Wild and Sergeant Armament Artificer Watson, both of the Royal Artillery arrived from Halifax on 29 April to supervise the work of mounting the new guns. The first was mounted at Rodd Hill by 3 July and all three allotted to Macaulay Point were in place by 11 December. Proof firing of all six guns on their mountings took place at Rodd Hill (3) on 22 October 1897 and at Macaulay Point (3) on 30 October. The gun crews were provided by the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment from Work Point Barracks.

The armament plan for the new defences included field artillery pieces and machine guns, both of which were intended to be used in the landward defence of the coast batteries. Originally 16-pdr field guns were prescribed, but six of the latest 13-pounder RML guns were substituted and were shipped from England to reach Esquimalt by 26 May 1896. Six Maxim machine guns on field carriages arrived at the same time. The British War Office gave authority on 26 June 1897 for a gun shed to be constructed in Work Point Barracks to house both types of weapons. It was started on 1 September 1897 and handed over to the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment on 31 March 1898.<sup>17</sup> A shell and cartridge store for 13-pounder ammunition was also constructed in the barracks and handed over by 5 October 1898, while machine gun ammunition stores were built at Macaulay Point and in the Lower Battery at Rodd Hill.

After the proof firings, the new works, complete with guns, ammunition and stores, were handed over to the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment by the Royal Engineers. Those at Macaulay Point were transferred on 30 November 1897 and those at Rodd Hill on 31 March 1898. Fort Rodd Hill then consisted of Lower Battery with the extras of a machine gun ammunition store (Small Arms Ammunition Store) and a skid-

ding shed, Casemate Barracks, Upper Battery and the Warrant Officers Quarter.

While the 6-inch batteries at Macaulay Point and Rodd Hill had always been seen as the core of the new defences, the plan included a few heavier guns for counter bombardment tasks. The experts who considered the matter in the 1880's agreed upon the concept, but sharply disagreed upon the type, number and siting of such guns. In the early 1890's the War Office decided upon four 9-inch RML guns to be Sited on Sangsters Hill, a remote site to a flank, but one which gave useful extra range. Detailed plans were drawn up and agreed by the General Officer Commanding, Canada. However, in March 1893, shortly before Major Muirhead left for Esquimalt, the War Office changed its mind, bowing to the argument that the Sangster Hill site was too isolated and, if captured by an enemy, its guns could be turned effectively against Esquimalt. Muirhead left for Esquimalt with the suggestion that a new site should be chosen between Saxe Point and Signal Hill, within the defended area. Meanwhile a new gun was under development, a 9.2-inch breech loading piece firing a 380 pound shell to a range of 17,400 yards. In November 1897, Muirhead suggested that two of the new guns could replace the four RML pieces considered to date.<sup>18</sup> Signal Hill became the site favoured by both Muirhead and the War Office, but the admiral commanding the Pacific Squadron objected on the grounds that the dockyard and naval anchorage would undoubtedly receive most of any counter fire directed upon Signal Hill. The matter of siting was still unresolved when the marines left in September 1899 although an armament of two 9.2-inch guns had been approved.

Siting a heavy gun battery, although important, was not the most urgent matter under discussion at this time. The Admiralty and the War Office were much more acutely aware of the menace posed by the inclusion of fast torpedo boats in the Russian pacific fleet. The new boats were considered to be able to run in through the gun fire of the heavier coast defence batteries with a very good chance of survival,

enter a harbour and attack any vessels at anchor with torpedoes before leaving again at high speed. Ships at anchor were ideal torpedo targets and it was difficult to envisage any effective defence against such an attack once the delivering torpedo boat was inside the harbour. In 1893 the plan to counter such an attack upon Esquimalt called for a minefield at the harbour mouth, two 6-pdr QF Hotchkiss guns to cover it and two Defence Electric Lights to illuminate any enemy attempt to enter the harbour or breach the minefield under cover of darkness. The siting of the mines, guns and lights was left to Major Muirhead. In the winter of 1895-6 he conducted a reappraisal of the original plan with Lieutenant W.O. Boothby R.N., torpedo lieutenant of H.M.S. Royal Arthur, flagship of the Pacific Squadron, with the approval of the admiral commanding the squadron. A joint report contained their recommendations.

The Muirhead-Boothby report was submitted on 30 March 1896 and forwarded to England under a covering letter by Rear Admiral H.F. Stephenson, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Station.<sup>19</sup> The report defined the location, boundaries and content of a suitable minefield and located its observing station and test room. The two allotted electric lights were to be emplaced at Rodd Hill (movable search beam) and Black Rock (fixed beam), while the two 6-pdr QF Hotchkiss guns were to be sited at Duntze Head. A strong recommendation was added that two additional 6-pdr QF guns should be sited at Black Rock and another searchlight be placed at Cape Saxe to strengthen the minefield defence and provide some protection against small boat landings on the shore between Black Rock and Macaulay Point. Admiral Stephenson expressed his support for the plan and recommendations and recommended that the fifty-eight submarine mines proposed for the minefield should be supplemented by a small reserve to replace those exploded during an attack, by some mines for practice and by **some** 50lb mines for use against small boat landings. He also listed the following mining craft as necessary for laying and maintaining the minefield:

1 miner	}	with mooring complete
1 steam launch		
3 Junction box boats		
1 cutter		
3 dinghies		
1 skiff		

Finally, he assessed the current strength of 16 Royal Marine Artillery submarine miners as quite inadequate for the maintenance and operation of the planned minefield and recommended an increase to 65. See Appendix E.

The recommendations from Esquimalt were considered at length in London, England, and were matched with the latest armament development. On 16 March 1898 the War Office recommended that four of the new 12-pdr QF guns should be mounted in addition to the two 6-pdr QF Hotchkiss guns originally planned. The Admiralty quickly agreed and on 30 April 1898 the War Office approved the new plan for the defence of the harbour entrance. It allowed for a minefield containing 32 one hundred pound electro-contact mines spread on both sides of a friendly channel 200 yards wide, 22 five hundred pound observation mines in the friendly channel and 4 fifty pound electro contact mines in the shallows under Rodd Hill. To protect this minefield two batteries, each of two 12-pdr QF guns, were to be sited at Rodd Hill (Belmont) and Black Rock and a battery of two 6-pdr QF Hotchkiss guns at Duntze Head. Two Electric lights were to be placed on the shore on each side of the harbour entrance.

The War Office swiftly issued a series of authorizations for the construction of the new works. They reached Major Muirhead at an opportune time when the work on the 6-inch batteries at Macaulay Point and Rodd Hill was complete. Authority to construct the engine room and electric light positions at Rodd Hill was given on 25 April 1898 and work began on 7 May. Belmont Battery was authorized on 3 May and construction began on 3 September. Meanwhile the submarine mining establishment on the other side of the harbour was



completed. By 5 October it held the recently arrived stores for the minefield and had been handed over to the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment.<sup>21</sup> The second 12-pdr battery, Black Rock Battery, was started on 15 October.<sup>22</sup> Work also began on the adjacent electric light positions and engine room.

Almost unnoticed in the considerable construction activity, an Army Ordnance depot was completed alongside the submarine mining establishment. By 5 October 1898, it contained a Warrant Officers quarter, the submarine mining storekeepers quarter, a guard room, an office and a reserve store building of two storeys measuring 100 X 30 feet. It would hold a reserve of essential ordnance stores for the defences and act as a clearing house for stores arriving from England. In 1898, the depot was staffed by Royal Engineers in the absence of Army Ordnance Corps personnel.<sup>23</sup>

Many of the projects in this flurry of construction in 1898 were not completed before the Royal Marine Artillery garrison left Esquimalt. What then was the actual state of the defences on 28 September 1899 when the detachment was relieved? The defences were certainly not complete. Six 6-inch guns had been emplaced, three each at Rodd Hill and Macaulay Point. Two 9.2-inch guns had been approved but not sited, nor had they arrived in Esquimalt. A minefield plan had been approved, the stores were in Esquimalt, the shore establishment was complete, but there was a serious shortage of personnel and no specialized minelaying boats. Two 6-pdr QF guns were in ordnance store at Esquimalt and four 12-pdr QF guns had been approved but had not yet been supplied. Work had started on the emplacements for the 12-pdrs but not for the 6-pdrs. The Defence Electric Light positions were ready but the engine rooms which would provide the power for their operation were incomplete. The field force armament of six 13-pdr RMLs and six Maxim machine guns on field carriages had arrived and was stored in the gun shed in Work Point Barracks. Thus, in the face of any sudden attack in

September 1899 the defences could only have mustered six 6-inch guns, perhaps two hurriedly mounted 6-pr QF guns and a few hastily laid mines, six 13-pr field guns and six machine guns.

At Rodd Hill development had reached the stage where Upper Battery, Lower Battery, Casemate Barracks, the Warrant Officers Quarter and the two Defence Electric Light positions were all complete according to plan. The Engine Room was without engines and Belmont Battery was without guns. Authority had not yet been given for the construction of water tanks, the Battery Commanders Post, Fitters Shop, Electric Light Station or Telephone Exchange.

## Training with the new armament

No matter how well the new defences were planned, constructed and equipped, they would be of little effect if they were not manned by well trained troops. The ideal would have been an all regular garrison of sufficient strength to carry out all duties in the defence of Esquimalt and Victoria, but this was a practical impossibility because of the shortage of both British and Canadian regular troops and of the expense of providing and maintaining such a garrison. The alternative, agreed in 1893, was for a small British regular garrison, a reserve of regular Canadian gunners stationed in eastern Canada and a larger militia force recruited locally. In peace time the regular British garrison would train the militia to play its part in the defences in war. The simplicity of this arrangement concealed the size and complexity of the training task undertaken by the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment at Esquimalt during its six years of garrison duty, 1893-1899.

The standard of training of the garrison was a matter of grave concern to the Admiralty, with the safety of the Esquimalt naval establishment at stake, and to the War Office with its responsibility for the defence of Esquimalt. The militia gunners in Victoria had been hurriedly raised and trained in 1878, in a time of emergency when temporary batteries were erected to protect both Esquimalt and Victoria. Since then they had largely trained themselves until the arrival of the first regular garrison in the form of C Battery Canadian Artillery in 1887. While some schools of instruction had been run by the battery for the militia there was no marked im-

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provement in the general standard of training. On 1 April 1894, starting date of the five year term of the British-Canadian agreement, the British Columbia Battalion of Garrison Artillery, although willing, was under strength, inadequately trained in even the basic military arts and quite untrained in the skills and disciplines of gunnery and submarine mining necessary to their role in the new defences.

Major Rawstone, commanding the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment, was particularly qualified to undertake the task of organizing the training of the militia gunners. He had been a gunnery instructor at the Royal Marine Artillery depot, Eastney Barracks, for four years and had served as assistant to the professor of fortification at the Royal Naval College for one year. His first goal was to improve the militia gunner's fundamental knowledge of the discipline, skills, and procedures necessary to the trained soldier of the day and for the practice of elementary gunnery. This would be done by holding a series of schools of instruction.

The intent and scope of the schools was outlined in an announcement in the Daily Colonist on 31 August 1894, shortly after they were officially authorized in a Canadian Militia General Order: -

The first step toward carrying into effect Militia General Order No 70 will be taken next Wednesday evening. It is understood that Col. Rawstone will be in charge of the school of gunnery, and the text of the order explains the details of the new departure:

"G.O. 70 - ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION AT VICTORIA, B.C.

"1. Arrangements have been made for the establishment of a School of Artillery Instruction at Victoria, B.C., in connection with the Imperial force at that station.

"2. The courses of instruction will be as follows:

(1) An annual course of three months, limited to

sixty of all ranks of the B.C. Battalion, Garrison Artillery; (2) An annual course of one month for the further instruction of officers, who have obtained certificates after attending the above course (1), and who are desirous of qualifying for promotion above the rank of lieutenant.

"3. At the close of the Instruction in Artillery drills and laying ordinance, an examination of these subjects will be held and at the close of each course an examination will be held on the remaining subjects.

"4. Certificates will be issued as follows, after passing the prescribed examinations: (1) A certificate (equivalent to a Grade B Certificate R.S.A.) for all ranks after attending the three months course detailed above (paragraph 2 (1st)). (2) A certificate (equivalent to a Grade A Certificate R.S.A.), for officers who have attended the further course detailed above (paragraph 2 (2nd)).

"These certificates will be either 1st class or 2nd class, according to the percentage of marks obtained as required by the Regulations and Orders of the Canadian Militia 1887, paragraph 1090.

"The possession of these certificates will be shown on the Militia List by the letters p.s. with the grade and class of the certificate after the officer's name: thus p.s. A 1st.

"These certificates will be granted conditionally on the holders passing a subsequent examination on the drill, and mechanism of the armament guns of the fortress; and in the case of officers in range finding and use of the depression range finder.

"The certificates will be considered as having lapsed, should the above subsequent examination not be completed within three years from the date of this order.

"5. Each officer, N.C. officer or man obtaining a Grade B certificate will be granted a bonus of \$50 for a first class, and \$30 for a second class. Each officer obtaining a Grade A certificate will be granted a bonus of \$25 for a first class, and \$15 for a second class.

"6. Officers, N.C. officers and men belonging to the Vancouver and New Westminster Companies, attending the above courses of instruction; will receive an allowance of \$2 per diem for officers and \$1 per diem for N.C. officers and men, in lieu of pay, quarters and subsistence. They will also receive transport going to, and returning from Victoria.

"7. Officers now holding R.S.A. certificates, who are desirous of obtaining further instruction will be permitted to attend the course for officers described in paragraph 2 (2nd), and will be granted the bonus as detailed in paragraph 5. The certificate issued in such cases will be equivalent to a Grade A Short Course R.S.A.

"8. Officers, N.C. officers and men attending the above courses will be attached to the Royal Marine Artillery for discipline and instruction only. In the event of misconduct, irregularity of attendance, want of attention, or any other act tending to the prejudice of good order and military discipline on the part of any officer, N.C. officer and man, the officer commanding the Royal Marine Artillery shall have the power of summarily dismissing the offender from the School of Instruction.

"9. The dates for the commencement of the various courses will be fixed by the officer commanding the Royal Marine Artillery and notified by the D. A.G. in District Orders.

"10. Syllabus of Instruction has been approved and will be issued to all concerned.

By command  
 "Walker Powell, Colonel  
 Adjutant-General of  
 Militia Canada'

The organization of the first school was not a simple matter of announcing the period it would run, accepting enrollment and providing instruction. The local volunteer had to be convinced of its value and every encouragement had to be extended to him to enroll and to complete the course. In many cases potential students 'needed leave of absence from their employers to attend, a concession which many employers were reluctant to extend. Most of the instruction was planned to take place in the evenings and at weekends, and some of it would be in Work Point Barracks , causing transportation and coordination problems. Moreover, potential students were already committed to regular militia drill nights and training during the period of the school and would naturally be reluctant to commit their remaining free evenings to militia training as well.

Colonel Rawstorne publicly acknowledged all these and other administration difficulties, offered his personal help to any potential student to overcome them and encouraged participation at every opportunity. On 6 September a District Order cancelled all militia parades until 31 December<sup>2</sup>, giving the school absolute training priority. The Colonel's personal enthusiasm and concern had its effect. The first school, a B certificate course, started with 60 students, 10 of them from the gunner militia in Vancouver. The first nights instruction began at 8 p.m. on Monday, 10 September 1894. Almost all of the officers of the three Victoria militia artillery companies attended including the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Prior.

The school was a success. After only four evening sessions the Daily Colonist commented that "All hands seem to be thoroughly pleased with the progress so far made, .."<sup>3</sup> Shortly before the end of the course, on 14 December, Major General

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I.C. Herbert C.B., General Officer Commanding the Canadian Militia, inspected the fortifications, the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment and its barracks, and visited the school at the drill hall on Menzies Street in Victoria. Of the visit to the school, it was reported:-

...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, underserjeant 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.<sup>4</sup>

The results achieved were most satisfactory. Six officers and 29 other ranks of the Victoria militia companies were granted B certificates of proficiency, all of the officers and 18 other ranks achieving first class percentages and the remainder second class.<sup>5</sup> By invitation, Lieutenant-Colonel Rawstone attended a commanding officer's parade of the militia on 21 February 1895, in the drill hall, to formally present the certificates personally to each student.

A brief respite followed, allowing the militia to drill for and complete its annual inspection, and then a second School of Instruction was run, this time an A certificate course for officers. Seven Lieutenants of the militia gunners attended. Five had completed the previous B certificate course and two had earned their B certificates at another time. Once again, the school was conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Rawstone, this time with Captains Templer and Barnes, Colour Sergeant Porter and Sergeant Carleton as instructors. Instruction took place in Work Point Barracks and the students were allowed full access to the marine officers mess. After months of hard work in the evenings and at weekends, the school ended on 4 June 1895 with all seven students earning first class A certificates. This hard-earned qualification



was accepted by militia headquarters as proof of their technical fitness for promotion to any rank in their unit., *the 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery.*<sup>6</sup> One graduate, Second Lieutenant F.B. Gregory, who was an outstanding student on both the A and-B certificate courses, rose to command the militia gunners in Victoria by the time the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment had reached the end of its garrison duty.

The effect of the intensive training offered in the two schools was dramatic. For the first time in the history of the Victoria-Esquimalt defences there was a substantial core of trained militiamen having a recognized standard of military efficiency in both infantry and artillery skills. Most importantly, this trained core included half of the total strength of the officers of the militia gunners of Victoria. Both officers and other ranks had trained, worked and socialized with the members of a regular detachment of high standard with whom they had established a strong rapport. They were aware of what was expected of the militia, of what could be achieved, and they had been given every encouragement during training to reach or surpass the standards set. With the school training behind them they returned to their fellow militiamen to pass on their new skills and encourage others to raise their standards. The immediate overall effect was a new enthusiasm and confidence among the militia gunners.

The success of 1895 was reinforced with two more schools in 1896. These were conducted in Vancouver for the two companies of the 5th Regiment there. Captain Barnes of the Royal Marine Artillery was in charge of instruction. By June another eight officers and 32 other ranks had achieved B certificates, All eight officers went on to successfully complete their A certificates by September.

AS soon as the new armament of 6-inch disappearing guns had been installed at Macaulay Point, the militiamen were trained in their operation. In February 1897, 22 were instructed by Captain Barnes, Sergeant Major Porter and Corporal Bundy of the Royal Marine Artillery under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Rawstone. The course ended with an

examination in 6-inch gun drill which everyone passed. Then it was the turn of those who had earned certificates in 1895 and 1896 as the following District Order makes clear:

Vide G.O. 1894 No. 70 the Certificates taken by the Officers NCOs and men of the 1st Battalion require that they must pass an examination in the armament and D.R.F. of this station. A class will therefore be formed under the instruction of the O.C. RMA on the 15th July next to be continued each evening, Saturday excepted, from 5 to 7 p.m. Certificates will be considered as having lapsed if this course is not completed before August 1st 1897.<sup>7</sup>

Seven officers and three other ranks attended the instruction at Macaulay Point, passed the examination and retained their certificates. The certificates of 25 other ranks lapsed.

The first firings of the 6-inch guns at Macaulay and Rodd Hill were described as both proof firings and quarterly practice. They began at Rodd Hill on 22 October 1897 and continued, after a short postponement due to bad weather, at Macaulay Point on 30 October. Undoubtedly, the first rounds fired from each of the six guns were a very deliberate affair with careful inspection of each gun, mounting and emplacement afterward to ensure that all was well. There was no cause for alarm, apparently, as quarterly practice firing got under way immediately. After the practice on the 22 October the Daily Colonist reported:-

...This practice began yesterday at the Rodd Hill fort at the entrance to Esquimalt harbour and formed quite an interesting spectacle. A floating target 10 feet high and 30 feet long was towed along behind the tug Sadie, on which was Capt. Blanchard Fifth Regiment C.A., as observation party. The target was towed on the arc of a circle from a mile to two miles distant from the fort. Thirty rounds were fired at the target by the R.M.A., seventeen hits being scored by the

6-inch B.L. guns firing 100 lb projectiles.<sup>8</sup>

This good shooting was improved on 30 October when "...thirty-two shots were fired with such precision that the target was riddled to pieces."<sup>9</sup>

Unfortunately Lieutenant-Colonel Rawstone did not witness the practices. He had returned to England in May 1897 after handing over his command of the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment to Major W.F. Trotter. Major Trotter supervised the two practices, and, in the summer of 1898, arranged for the militia to practice their skills with the new armament before their first firing practice.

Militia gun detachments from Vancouver joined the local detachments for the first militia firing of the 6-inch guns on Friday 4 November 1898. The practice the next day was described in the Daily Colonist.

The big gun drills at Rodd Hill and at Fort Macaulay yesterday proved most satisfactory. The squad from the Second battalion [Vancouver], .. did their live firing from the Rodd Hill fort, the target used being a moving one towed by a tug. In the afternoon the First battalion [Victoria] manned Fort Macaulay, they also shooting at a moving target. The shooting was very good there being a large percentage of hits. The officers of the battalions were in charge of the squads and the firing was done under the supervision of Major Trotter and the officers of the R.M.A. <sup>10</sup>

When the report on the practice reached Ottawa it prompted the message:

The Major General [Commanding Militia] desires that you will convey to the Staff of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 5th Regiment his gratification at the excellent report forwarded on their practice with the 6 inch B.L. guns, modern armament carried out upon the 5th instant.<sup>11</sup>

The new batteries of 6-inch disappearing guns at Fort Macaulay and Rodd Hill now had trained and practiced artillerymen, both regular and militia, to man them.

The militia had also trained with the new 13-pdr field guns supplied for landward defence. Two of these guns were kept in the Drill Hall on Menzies Street and were regularly used for practice drills with great enthusiasm. So much enthusiasm in fact that it had to be restrained as the following extract from Battalion Orders indicates:

The Officer Commanding Troops at Victoria B.C. having reported to the District Officer Commanding M.D. No. 11 that the underneath portions of the jackets of the two 13 pdrs R.M.A. guns in use at the Drill Hall have been deeply scored due to the mounting and dismounting Competitions engaged in by the 5th Regiment C.A. it is imperatively ordered that hereafter under no considerations shall these guns be submitted to the rough treatment necessitated by these mounting competitions.<sup>12</sup>

The guns do not appear to have been used in firing practice before October 1898. They were fired on 20 May 1899 by the militia company assigned to training with them, No. 1 Company, at Beacon Hill, Victoria, at floating targets.<sup>13</sup> It is quite probable that this was the first annual practice with these weapons which were not used elsewhere in Canada.

Unfortunately the militia were not trained in submarine mining. The original concept for the operation of the minefield had included a proposal for a force of 2 officers and 48 other ranks of the militia to be trained by and to supplement the submarine miners of the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment.<sup>14</sup> Unfortunately, except for a few survey items received in 1895, the submarine mining equipment did not arrive until 1898. Moreover, no militia unit was designated for submarine mining until after the reorganization of the 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery in the fall of

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1899 when a company was given the task. The Royal Marine Artillery Detachment left Esquimalt in September 1899 without having trained any militia in submarine mining and, so far as is known, without having carried out any practice minelaying themselves.

With the exception of submarine mining, it can be said that the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment had discharged all of its militia training obligations in a very satisfactory manner. It had not been a small task to take poorly trained militiamen and their officers, encourage them to learn the basic infantry and artillery skills, and then train them further to the point where they could operate the modern guns and equipment of the defences in a satisfactory manner, but the responsibility had been accepted and discharged with enthusiasm. Proficiency in military skills and in gunnery had been passed on to the militia gunners and with it something of Royal Marine Artillery tradition.

## The Militia

The 1893 British-Canadian agreement on the defence of Esquimalt formally committed the local militia to a role in the new defences. When called upon they would be expected to man the new coast artillery batteries alongside the marines of the regular garrison. In 1893 they were ill fitted for their role. Within six years they would more than double in number and prove in firing practice that they had mastered the gunnery skills their role demanded. The agreement focussed attention on them and brought the assistance they needed to make the change but nothing could be achieved without the individual effort of each militiaman and the leadership of their officers.

When the first marines of the new garrison arrived in 1893 their local militia comrades were few in number and deficient in gunnery proficiency. A reorganization in 1883 had grouped three batteries of the militia in Victoria with the former Seymour Artillery Company of New Westminster in a unit titled the British Columbia Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery. Regimental Headquarters was in Victoria and a former Royal Engineer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Wolfenden, commanded the regiment until 1888 when Lieutenant-Colonel E.G. Prior, a prosperous hardware merchant and member of parliament, replaced him.<sup>1</sup> The authorized strength of the regiment was 18 officers and 170 men but the actual strength was about 10 officers and 133 men. On training evenings, the regiment met in a variety of hired halls in Victoria and New Westminster. To its credit, the regiment had conducted regular practice with its obsolescent Snider-Enfield rifles on its own unofficial ranges at Clover Point and Goldstream and in the New Westminster area. But the regiment's last artillery live practice was with the 64-pdr RML guns of Finlayson Point Battery in 1891 and it had fallen behind similar units in New Brunswick, Halifax and Montreal in artillery practice and training.

The condition of the regiment was a new focus of attention for Canadian authorities after the 1893 agreement. The regiment was given a new title, the British Columbia Battalion of Garrison Artillery, eliminating the word provisional from its address and status.<sup>2</sup> At the same time its four batteries were styled companies and renumbered. Unfortunately, the renumbering of the New Westminster company from 1 to 4 caused deep offence to that company, the senior artillery militia in the province, and had disastrous consequences eventually. In June 1893, the Minister of Militia, the Honourable J.C. Patterson, visited Victoria.<sup>3</sup> The very short notice, a few hours only, given to the battalion resulted in a poor parade turnout and fuelled the considerable discontent in the city and the militia over the slow rate of construction of the promised new drill hall and the lack of Dominion government response to requests for a modern range and rifles. The complaints were of long standing, but now, with the Dominion government's obligations under the 1893 agreement, such matters could not be ignored, particularly when the battalions commanding officer was a Member of Parliament and the Officer commanding the Canadian militia, Major-General Ivor Herbert C.B., had been closely involved with negotiation of the British-Canadian agreement and was fully familiar with both its terms and the local situation.

The new drill hall on Menzies Street, Victoria, adjacent to the legislative buildings, was completed on 10 January, 1894. It was open to the public on 12 and 13 January and was viewed by many before the formal opening by Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney on 24 January. Volunteers rushed to put the finishing touch to the bare building, furnished it, and then attended the official opening celebrations for two days of displays and band concerts.<sup>4</sup> It was a splendid start to a very busy militia year.

The routine of previous years was continued with two major innovations. There was the usual round of annual inspections, regular classification firing on the rifle ranges, field days, a tented camp and participation in ceremonial occasions. What was new was the introduction of regular march-outs when the whole unit would parade through the streets of Victoria behind its new band.

Colonel Prior also instituted a system of recruit training where recruits were drilled separately until they could graduate to company membership.

The battalion played a prominent role in the arrangements for the visit of the Governor-General of Canada to Victoria, 3-10 November 1894. But a visitor in the following month was received with even greater enthusiasm. Major-General Herbert brought news of new rifles ordered, presented a silver trophy to the battalion for annual inter-company competition and expressed his satisfaction after inspecting the marine garrison, the new defences under construction and the militia. He was particularly pleased to witness training underway for the School of Artillery B Certificate with squads of militia under marine instructors. See Training with the new armament. The local press commented:-

He is a welcome visitor, for the militia of Victoria are fully impressed with the idea that **it** is to him they are indebted for the new life given to thier corps when **it** was raised to the proud position of having the greatest authorized strength of any in the Dominion.... <sup>5</sup>

During the year the battalion's authorized establishment had been increased to 31 officers and **494** other ranks. At the annual inspection the actual strength was 16 officers and 232 other ranks, almost double that of the previous year. Part of the increase was due to the raising of a fifth company for the battalion in Vancouver. <sup>6</sup>

A great deal was achieved during 1894, but not all outstanding deficiencies were corrected and one company was lost. The School of Instruction established by the Royal Marine Artillery had begun to improve the battalion's gunnery skills but there was no annual artillery firing practice. There were no modern guns available for practice of any kind in Vancouver and New Westminster. Although a new rifle range site had been procured in Vancouver the Victoria companies were still confined to the small ranges at Clover Point and midstream. The New Westminster company was disbanded on 8 September 1894, <sup>7</sup> af-



ter a year of dissatisfaction among its members had ended in a situation close to mutiny.

In 1895 the battalion developed the activities it had started in 1894. There were regular march-outs, recruit drills continued and an A Certificate course run by the marines was completed by the officers. There were frequent rifle range practices, particularly after the introduction of the Morris-tubed rifles using less expensive ammunition. There was a noticeable tightening of administration early in the year with a series of references in battalion orders to officers dress regulations, the completion and submission of pay sheets and details of gun drill and foot drill, which, it was decreed, " ... will be in all respects as practiced in H.M. Imperial Service."<sup>8</sup>

Colonel Prior had been president of the Dominion Artillery Association since 5 April 1894. In Yarch 1895 he was appointed an Honourary Aide-de-camp to the Governor-General. During the debate on the militia estimates in the House of Commons in July he spoke forcibly against any reduction. His speech was reported at length in Victoria:

...Another feature of the British Columbia garrison artillery is, that if they are not drilled and kept efficient, this government would be breaking faith with England...but the agreement is that Canada shall man those guns. That is the reason that the British Columbia garrison was raised to the present strength of 525 men...I therefore urge the government that the British Columbia garrison artillery should be drilled this year and every year. I have also heard it stated that the government might allow enough money to drill for eight days. Well, I think that is a very small potatoes indeed, The men are supposed to draw drill pay for twelve days which amounts to \$6 a man, but dozens of my men have put in between fifty and sixty and seventy-five drills a year, and yet they get paid for twelve.. ..if we are not allowed to drill this year the consequences would be that we could lose half the men.<sup>9</sup>

There were few militia units who had their colonel to speak for them this way in Parliament.

However, while carrying out his duties in Ottawa, he could not command the battalion. When it participated in the sham fight staged to celebrate the Queen's birthday in Victoria, Lieutenant-Colonel Peters the officer commanding No. 11 District, British Columbia, commanded for Colonel Prior. On this occasion, the battalion earned a letter of appreciation from Rear-Admiral H.F. Stephenson, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Squadron. "...The BCBGA under Lieut-Col Peters showed a marked soldierly bearing and efficiency considering these gentlemen have rarely the opportunity or time to take part in a Brigade Field day; both the drill and the march past were highly creditable."<sup>10</sup> The Admiral was equally complimentary about the battalion's role in the Vancouver celebrations of Dominion Day when all of the Victoria companies joined 5 Company for the occasion.

During the year a second company was formed in Vancouver, 6 Company,<sup>11</sup> and 4 Company, New Westminster was reformed.<sup>12</sup> The battalion then had three companies and its headquarters in Victoria and three companies in the Fraser valley with a total authorized strength of 36 officers and 587 other ranks. At the end of the year its title was changed to 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery.<sup>13</sup>

By January 1896 the regiment was firmly and comfortably committed to the pattern of activities it had developed in the previous two years. Most of the events of the year were therefore a repetition of those of previous years. The most noticeable difference was a growing anticipatory eagerness for training with the guns of the new defences. The previous years School of Artillery courses had done much to encourage this. They were continued in 1896, but in Vancouver for the three companies of the regiment in that area. Colonel Prior enunciated the regiment's anticipation in an address to the Dominion Artillery Association when he said "...owing to the fact that there were neither forts nor guns in British Columbia his regiment were unable to have gun practice - they

expected to have both of the very best description in the near future."<sup>14</sup> Then from May until August there was keen interest in the fortunes of the Canadian team which competed at Shoeburyness, England, against teams from Britain and other countries of the Empire in coast artillery gunnery. Four members of the regiment were selected for the team: Sergeant A.J. Thomas and Bombardier Lettice of 3 Company, Victoria, Company Sergeant Major J.C. Cornish of 4 Company, New Westminster and Sergeant Turner of Vancouver. The team signalled its success to Colonel Prior with the brief telegram "Col. Prior. Won Queen's, Cole"<sup>15</sup> in August. It had won the premier competition for the Queen's prize with fourth place in group firing and ranging and third place in group firing at a moving target using 64-pdr RML guns. The team went on to win a third prize for shifting ordnance, the Londonderry Challenge Cup and the Governor-General of Canada's cup.<sup>16</sup> The news of the triumph in England reinforced the growing excitement in Victoria over the arrival of the new armament for the defences: 6-inch disappearing, 13-pdr field and Maxim machine guns. The regiment had already received the long awaited Martini-Henry rifles to replace its obsolete Snider-Enfields in January.

Unfortunately the regiment was struggling with considerable administrative and command problems throughout the year until it was reorganized in October 1896. The rapid growth in numbers and the physical split of the unit between Victoria and the mainland had created difficulties which were already apparent in 1895. When Colonel Prior was absent in Ottawa the difficulties increased. Command devolved according to seniority, sometimes upon Major Thomas Owen Townley in Vancouver, but the headquarters remained in Victoria. Major Townley attempted to command without a headquarter's staff and while he was physically separated from half of his command. The ridiculous situation was remedied only when authority came from militia headquarters in Ottawa to reorganize the regiment in two battalions, one each in Victoria and Vancouver commanded respectively by Lieutenant-Colonels Gregory and Townley.

Lieutenant-Colonel Prior was permitted to resign in November when the two battalions were formed.<sup>17</sup> The question of command of the regiment, which remained a Lieutenant-Colonel's appointment, was finally solved in June 1897 with the re-appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Prior.<sup>18</sup> When the reorganization was complete the authorized strength of 1 Battalion, Victoria, was 307 all ranks and that of 2 Battalion, Vancouver/New Westminster, 303 all ranks, making the regiment by far the largest in the permanent force or active militia of Canada.

When Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory took command of 1 Battalion in Victoria he placed greater emphasis on technical gunnery training than had been the case before. This was to be expected for he had been an outstanding student on the first A and B Certificate courses run by the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment. There were gun drill and Depression Range Finder courses for the battalion in 1897, run by the marines. On 16 April, the battalion manned the new battery at Macaulay Point for a day-long sham battle. Afterward, and after all other similar training and ceremonial occasions, Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory circulated his criticism and comments, drawing attention to many technical drill points. During the year he instituted inter-company competition for the Herbert Cup, presented to the Victoria gunners in 1894, whereby marks were awarded for gun drill, company drill, the condition of administrative books and records and for the total of the leading 40 scores in each company at the annual rifle range classification.<sup>19</sup> At the end of the year, in October, many members of the battalion watched the first firing of the 6-inch guns in the new batteries at Rodd Hill and Macaulay Point by the Royal Marine Artillery garrison.

More spectacularly, 1897 was Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee year. Military contingents from all parts of the British Empire marched in the Jubilee parade in London in June and took part in a series of reviews and inspections there in a week of festivities. It was a major occasion for the Canadian

militia. The men of the Canadian contingent were carefully selected and drilled together in Quebec before going to England. Gunner W.J. Scott, 3 Company, Victoria, and Sergeant C.B. Worsnop, 6 Company, Vancouver, were selected from 5th Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonels Prior and Gregory also went, the latter being granted three months leave of absence to accompany Sir Wilfred Laurier. There were glowing reports on the celebrations and everyone enjoyed their time in England although the physical demands of long hours of marching and parading were strenuous. The annual militia report for the year contained a lengthy report on the expedition to London.<sup>20</sup>

It is possible that a carryover of the jubilee spirit of the summer was largely responsible for the success of the Victoria battalion's annual ball on 16 December in the drill hall on Menzies Street.<sup>21</sup> Over 1500 invitations were issued, a special dance floor was laid and the hall decorated and specially lit. The Lieutenant-Governor, the Mayor, Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory, Sergeant Major Mulcahy and their wives led the dancing with a formal quadrille of honour. The catering was noteworthy and a special fleet of tramcars took the guests home in the early hours of the morning. The ball was a major success and a social occasion which was long remembered.

In 1898, the regiment proved itself ready to take its place as part of the garrison of the Esquimalt defences when it fired the 6-inch disappearing guns in practice. Teams from 2 Battalion came over from Vancouver to fire the Rodd Hill guns in the morning of 5 November. Men from 1 Battalion fired the guns at Macaulay Point in the afternoon. The whole practice was supervised by the Royal Marine Artillery and achieved satisfactory results. See Training with the new armament.

The regiment had proven itself to advantage in a different way some months earlier when it had marched through the streets of Seattle during the 4 July celebrations there.<sup>22</sup> A

contingent of about 300 including the bands of both battalions assembled in Victoria on 3 July to travel overnight to Seattle on the City of Kingston. The march through the city the next day was led by Lieutenant-Colonel Prior who was mounted for the occasion. The steady ranks of blue uniform and white helmets were received with considerable enthusiasm by the local citizens. It was a unique occasion and a considerable success for the regiment.

There was no doubt that in 1898 the regiment was fully capable of performing well when called upon to do so in public. Perhaps the finest accolade earned during the year came from Lord William Seymour, General Officer Commanding, Halifax, who wrote after inspecting the regiment in Victoria, "...very smart...well drilled....a very different looking lot to our Halifax friends and British to the core."<sup>23</sup>

The regiment was also better equipped personally than it ever had been before. During the year it was issued with Oliver pattern personal accoutrements and received Lee Enfield rifles to replace the Martini-Henry weapons. The new rifles prompted a resurgence of rifle shooting competition including an innovative series of rifle matches in 1 Battalion for anyone not classified as a first or second class shot.

In May 1899 a new British-Canadian agreement on the defence of Esquimalt was concluded. See Reappraisal and a New Agreement. Canada agreed to provide a militia force to supplement an increased British garrison. The force would include artillery, submarine mining engineers and infantry. In order to meet this commitment 5th Regiment was reorganized.<sup>24</sup> The mainland battalion, 2 Battalion, was converted to an infantry unit, 6th Battalion of Rifles. The Victoria battalion 1 Battalion, was retitled 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery and each of its three companies was split to give the regiment a total of six companies, all in Victoria. No personnel were assigned to the new 5 Company in the shuffle. It was designated a submarine mining company and its personnel were to be recruited eventually from volunteers

from the other companies. Another company, 1 Company, was given a landward defence role and would train with the 13-pdr RML guns. Lieutenant-Colonel Prior retired after 10 years in command and Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory took command of the new 5th Regiment, now again an all Victoria unit.

The reorganization did not seriously interrupt the years programme for the Victoria gunners. They practiced drill on the guns and instruments at Fort Macaulay, held the annual competition for the Herbert Cup, practiced an emergency turn-out, 1 Company fired its 13-pdr RML guns and there was a field day at Macaulay Point. The annual inspections were successfully completed and on 18 October, in a new issue uniform which included serge frock jackets and forage caps, 200 men were inspected by Major-General Hutton. The General's comments were published in the Colonist newspaper: "He was not accustomed he said to making comparisons between regiments, but he would say that in all Canada he had no seen a better or more soldierly regiment than the Fifth."<sup>25</sup>

General Hutton's tribute was fitting and timely. The Royal Marine Artillery Detachment had recently left Esquimalt, ending the first six years of joint British-Canadian responsibility for the defence of the naval station. They had been six years of change for the militia committed to the defences and six years of steady improvement to a new and very satisfactory level of proficiency. With the assistance of the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment the militiamen had become proficient in gunnery and had practiced with the new armament of the defences. By 1899 they were well equipped with the latest small arms and well uniformed. Their drill and discipline was such that they could, and did, turn out at short notice to perform very creditably on public occasions. Over the six years, their numbers had swelled, necessitating a series of reorganizations of their command structure. The last *of* these had reassigned the militia gunners of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster to the role of coast artillery, field artillery, submarine mining and infantry in the defence of Esquimalt. At the end of 1899, they were ready to commence the second period of British-Canadian responsibility for the defence.

## Reappraisal and a New Agreement

The 1893 British-Canadian agreement on the defence of Esquimalt had been largely based on the findings of the Carnarvon Commission reported some ten years previously. The detailed plan for the defences and garrison was formed upon the premise of a probable scale of attack of one or two cruisers raiding or bombarding the naval establishment at Esquimalt. By 1896 there were serious doubts in London, England, that the premise continued to hold good. Questions were raised about the adequacy of the planned defences and garrison. It was also abundantly clear that there was confusion about the chain of command and responsibility for the defence of Esquimalt. The Colonial Defence Committee sought and obtained answers which became the frame upon which a new British-Canadian agreement was formed to follow that of 1893 when it expired.

In 1896, both Russia and America had a considerable number of warships deployed in the Pacific. The Russian vessels included a second class battleship, six armoured gun vessels, twelve smaller vessels and fifteen torpedo boats. Vladivostock had been fortified in recent years and was then classified as a second class fortress with a garrison of 3,500 troops. Warships of the United States in the eastern Pacific included a first class armoured battleship, three armoured coast defence vessels, three protected second class cruisers, one unprotected second class cruiser, four unprotected third class cruisers and six smaller vessels. There were four more cruisers and a sloop on the China coast. A scheme had been drawn up in 1886 for fortifying a number of ports on the American west coast and in Puget Sound but only San Francisco had received defences so far. No one supposed that the whole of the Pacific naval strength of Russia or America, or both, might be concentrated in an attack on Esquimalt, but it seemed that an attack by a powerful force of



either nation, something more than one or two cruisers, was a distinct possibility in any war. There was particular concern over the presence of fifteen Russian torpedo boats and an American plan to build five torpedo boats in San Francisco.' See Appendix G for ship details.

In October 1896, the Colonial Defence Committee in London considered the problems associated with the defence of Esquimalt. At the time British-American relations were soured over Venezuela. The Committee was aware of comparative naval strengths in the Pacific. The Admiralty had recently submitted its general recommendations on defence against torpedo boats and had shown concern over the inadequacies in the strength of garrison in Esquimalt and the state of the mine-field defence there. See Appendix E. The Muirhead-Boothby report and recommendations on the quick firing gun defences of Esquimalt had been circulated. See Construction of the Defences. The question of heavy guns was under active discussion. The committee quickly realized that these and other problems associated with the Esquimalt defences placed in doubt the premise of the 1893 agreement. The scale of expected attack must be reconsidered and confirmed, or redefined, before the defence plan could be completed. In a memorandum circulated after the meeting the committee pointed out that if there should be a war with the United States, with the present scale of defence "...it will be necessary to accept the bad moral effect both in Canada and England of the loss of a defended port with its artillery and stores at the outset of a war."<sup>2</sup> If such a disaster was unacceptable then "...a very large expenditure of guns and works will be necessary, as well as a permanent garrison of at least 5,000 trained troops."<sup>3</sup> The memorandum begged a cabinet decision.

The views of one member of the British cabinet, the Secretary of State for War, Lord Lansdowne, were circulated in a very confidential memorandum to the Prime Minister and other members of the cabinet (Lord Salisbury, the Duke of Westminster, Mr. G. Hamilton, Mr. Goschen, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Bush) on 8 January 1897. In brief he argued:-

I deprecate any proposal for a large expenditure in strengthening the defences of Esquimalt. It seems to me easy to over-rate its importance. On the other hand, it would, I believe, be impossible to make it really safe from attack, except at a sacrifice which we cannot afford....I am not prepared to deny all weight to the arguments founded upon the **loss** of prestige which we should incur were Esquimalt, at the outset of hostilities, to fall into the possession of the enemy (it would, as Mr. Balfour has said, be a bitter pill to swallow); but I would not allow this argument to carry us too far. We should not be led by such considerations either to spend money on Esquimalt, which could be spent more advantageously elsewhere, or to lock up for its defence ships and soldiers which could be more effectively used in other parts of the world....I am told that the armament and works, which would be required to give Esquimalt anything like complete security from a serious attack in the absence of the fleet would probably cost about 1,000,000 £, to say nothing of the garrison which would be necessary to hold the place ....In considering what our policy should be, I am unable to exclude the question of probability. Is war with the United States a probability for which it is our duty to provide in the same way as we might provide for war with any of The Continental Powers of Europe? I cannot believe that this question is to be answered in the affirmative. If I am right, I would say let us spend our money, which is not unlimited, in strengthening our defences at the points where we are most likely to be threatened....

It seems to me that all we need to do is to complete the defences already approved at a cost of about 25,000£. This would make the place strong enough to resist a cruiser attack, and might al-

so enable the garrison to hold its own at all events for a few days if pressed by a larger force of the enemy. We could scarcely refuse to do this without laying ourselves open to the charge of a breach of faith with the Canadian Government.<sup>4</sup>

His argument is a measure of the debate in London on the scale of defence at Esquimalt.

There was another debate on another fundamental aspect of the defences which was taking place in the same period: a question of command and responsibility. Rear Admiral H. St. L. Bury Palliser, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Station, had raised the issue with some force in a reply to a series of questions posed to him by the Admiralty in 1896 when that body was appraising the current state and future of the defence of Esquimalt. The Admiral wrote:

At present the state of this question is chaotic.

**Who** is responsible actually for the defence of this place and training?

Not the Admiralty (they have only undertaken to lend assistance.)

Not Colonel Rawstone, R.M.A., and the detachment he commands (they are under the orders of the General at Halifax, 3,000 miles away, and have not yet commenced training submarine miners for want of personnel and instructions.)

Not Major Muirhead, R.E., not Colonel Peters, of the Canadian Militia (both of whom have nothing to do with Colonel Rawstone).

Not myself (the Marines are under the Army Act, and in no way under my orders).

There is positively no person directly and personally responsible.

When I ask this question privately and officially, I am told, "Oh its all right, the Canadian Government are responsible." Now, the Canadian

Government reside at Ottawa, over 2,000 miles away.

The fact is, the Canadian Militia cannot be relied upon for permanent defence, are a shifting body, and a few trained miners, R.M.A., sent out here at great expense to form the nucleus of a corps of Canadian miners, all drawing very high pay, have done nothing, and have not trained a single man in submarine mining work, and as far as I can find out (they are not under my orders) have no present intention of doing so.

Neither should I think it wise training a local force with a full knowledge of the work and mine-field, in view of American Agents here holding out inducements to them to cross the border.<sup>5</sup>

These blunt comments could not be ignored in London.

The Colonial Defence Committee discussed the matter and appealed to the Colonial Office in June 1897 with a memorandum which first described the course of events, which had led to the situation and the current arrangements. The Carnarvon Commission had suggested that the Canadian government should be responsible for the defence of Esquimalt. In the final stages of the negotiations which led to the Anglo-Canadian agreement of 1893, Lord Knutsford, then Secretary of State for the Colonies had written that he saw:-

...no reason to suppose that any misapprehension exists so far as this Department or the Canadian Government are concerned as it has always been held that the responsibility for defending Esquimalt rests with the Dominion Government, in precisely the same manner as the responsibility for the defence of King George's Sound and Thursday Island rests with the Australian Colonies; although in all these cases it has been considered that Im-

perial interests are sufficiently concerned to warrant a grant of armament, etc, at the cost of Imperial funds as a contribution in aid of the defence.... 6

Under the 1893 agreement the Royal Marine Artillery Detachment was regarded as the nucleus of the Esquimalt garrison. It was borne on the Admiralty books for pay, was under the General Officer Commanding at Halifax for discipline and requisitioned stores and supplies through his headquarters. The detachment's instruction of the local militia was under the control of the General Officer Commanding the Militia in Ottawa who would also, presumably as the representative of the Canadian Government, give orders to the detachment for the defence of Esquimalt. The Canadian contribution of permanent artillery was in Quebec and had no opportunity to train on the guns mounted at Esquimalt. Although Canada had suggested supplying militia submarine miners in 1891, there was no obligation for her to do so in the 1893 agreement. Meanwhile, the War Department in London was constructing the defences and would, under present arrangements remain responsible for their maintenance and for the maintenance of the barracks after construction was completed. Clearly, this was a most complicated division of responsibility and command which was difficult to operate in peace and could be guaranteed to fail in war. It could not be allowed to continue.

The Colonial Defence Committee saw two alternative solutions. Either the responsibility for the defence of Esquimalt could rest with the Government of Canada with the actions of the Imperial government confined to advice on any matter on which Canada might consult it, or the responsibility would rest entirely with the Imperial government with any militia troops allotted to the defence coming under the command of the Imperial commanding officer. In the latter case Esquimalt would in effect be under the direct command of the British General Officer Commanding at Halifax.

The committee recommended that the first alternative should be pursued.<sup>7</sup> Specifically, the General Officer Com-

manding at Halifax should be eliminated from the chain of responsibility. The British garrison at Esquimalt should be placed under the General Officer Commanding the Canadian Militia for tactical and instructional purposes, for discipline and for the supply of stores and supplies. It was considered necessary that, for the present, the senior Imperial officer at Esquimalt should have local command of the defences, at least until the works were completed. The committee forecast that an opportunity for revising the present arrangements on these lines would occur when the current agreement ran out in 1899.

After the views of the Colonial Defence Committee were made known the key figure in the debate was the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Chamberlain. He communicated his views on both the question ~~of~~ the scale of defence appropriate for Esquimalt and that of command and responsibility for the defences in one letter, on 15 December 1897.

the defence of Esquimalt cannot be undertaken on a scale sufficient to Protect **it** from any attack which might be made from the United States of **Am-**erica, but only on a scale sufficient to resist an attack by one or two cruisers and the troops that might be landed from them.<sup>8</sup>

He also agreed with the Admiralty, the War Office and the Colonial Defence Committee:-

...that an end should be put to the existing system of divided control and responsibility, and that the responsibility for, and control of, the station should rest with the Government of Canada the garrison (whether partly consisting of Imperial troops or wholly of Canadian troops) being placed under the General Commanding the Canadian militia.<sup>9</sup>

However, he did not think that Canada could furnish the whole of the necessary garrison, nor did he think that Canada should bear the whole cost of the defence of Esquimat. Both of these points required resolution, he felt, before any further communication with the Government of Canada upon the subject of a new agreement.

At this point, in December 1897, the two key matters of the scale of expected attack upon, and the eventual responsibility for, the Esquimalt defences were sufficiently agreed for detailed planning of the defences to take place. For most of 1898 discussions about the size of the garrison, the supply of troops, their accommodation in Esquimalt, the scale and provision of heavy and quick firing guns and searchlights, were an internal War Department matter. When a measure of internal agreement was achieved, Admiralty approval was sought. Always, there was financing to be considered and discussed with the Treasury. Eventually, the War Office took up an Admiralty suggestion for a conference to finally settle matters. The conference took place on 10 November 1898 with representatives of the Colonial Office, the Admiralty, the War Office and the Treasury present. There was quick agreement on six key points which in summary were: <sup>10</sup>

1. The Imperial government should, for the present, assume the whole responsibility for the defence of Esquimalt with responsibility for land defence exclusively with the War Office.
2. There should be a permanent Imperial garrison of 322 all ranks. ~~See~~ Appendix H for breakdown of numbers and cost.
3. The permanent garrison must be supplemented by a local militia force of 623 all ranks subject to annual inspection by the Imperial Officer Commanding Esquimalt or the Lieutenant-General Commanding in Canada - the British Commander of Halifax.
4. The Canadian government should be relieved of its current obligation to maintain 100 permanent artillerymen in readiness to proceed to Esquimalt and of the responsibility for the defence of Esquimalt provided that the militia garrison be placed under the orders of the Imperial Officer in Command on the imminence of war.

5. Costs would be shared with the Canadian government paying half the annual cost of the Imperial garrison - estimated at £21,000, half the prime charges for the barrack accommodation of the garrison - estimated at £12,500, and the whole cost of the local militia.
6. These arrangements should be made for a period of 10 years at the end of which it was expected that Canadian troops of each arm would be ready to take over.

Here were the essentials for a new British-Canadian agreement on the defence of Esquimalt: a proposal for British management, a large permanent British garrison backed by Canadian militia and some cost sharing for a period of ten years until Canada could assume full responsibility.

The proposal for a new agreement was sent to the Canadian government on 1 February 1899. It was favourably received. In reply, the Dominion stated that it preferred a contribution of a fixed annual sum of £21,000 toward the cost of maintenance of the Imperial garrison and a fixed sum of £12,500 for the prime charges for the barrack accommodation of the Imperial troops. It would provide a militia force of 623 all ranks for the garrison: 5 officers and 155 other ranks of the artillery, 3 officers and 53 other ranks submarine mining engineers, 15 officers and 415 other ranks of the infantry. Ottawa suggested the new arrangements should start on 30 September 1899.<sup>11</sup> The Canadian suggestions were accepted in London on the recommendations of the Colonial Office.

The new British-Canadian agreement on the defence of Esquimalt heralded a new phase in the history of the Victoria-Esquimalt defences. Britain, the British War Office, would be responsible for the development of the defences, for the permanent garrison and for command. Canada would contribute some of the cost and commit a large militia force to the garrison. The new arrangements would supersede the old made in 1893. The Royal Marine Artillery Detachment, the old garrison, would be relieved.



## RMA Detachment returns to England

The starting date for the new British-Canadian agreement of the defence of Esquimalt was 30 September 1899. A changeover in the British garrison was to be effected by then. The Royal Marine Artillery Detachment which had arrived so quietly in 1893-94 departed with ceremony, with expressions of regret and with the appreciative good wishes of the local citizens and militia.

Advance parties of the new garrison arrived before the marines left. Seven Royal Engineer submarine miners left England on 9 September.' On arrival they took charge of all the submarine mining stores, equipment and buildings at Signal Hill, Esquimalt, from the marines. They were also the advance party for a submarine mining company of the Royal Engineers which would eventually join the garrison. Lieutenant V.L. Beer, Royal Garrison Artillery, Quartermaster Sergeant Norris of the Army Service Corps, two sergeants and ten gunners arrived in Esquimalt on 22 September from Halifax, Nova Scotia. They were the advance party for 19 Company Royal Garrison Artillery.<sup>2</sup> The next day Colonel Collard, CRE Halifax, arrived for discussions on the building programme which would enlarge Work Point Barracks to accommodate the new larger garrison.<sup>3</sup>

The main body of 19 Company RGA left Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Saturday 23 September 1899 by rail for Esquimalt. Major A.E.C. Myers RGA commanded the party which included Major Moir of the Royal Army Medical Corps and about ten families making a total of 140 in the group. They arrived in Victoria on 29 September having crossed with the outgoing Royal Marine Artillery Detachment in Vancouver.<sup>4</sup>

The marines left Victoria on 28 September 1899. In the afternoon Colonel Prior, Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory and other officers of Victoria's militia gunners, 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery, called formally upon the officers of the RMA Detachment at Work Point Barracks to present a commemorative

silver loving cup to the RMA officers mess. The cup was well received. It went to England with the detachment and today is part of the silver of the officers mess of the Royal Marine Commando Training Centre, Lypstone, Exmouth, Devon, See Figure 8. At about 8 p.m. the RMA Detachment, some 60 men headed by their officers, Major Trotter and Captains Barnes and Poole, marched to the wharf in Victoria behind the band of the 5th Regiment. They were joined on board the Islander by Surgeon Bell and their wives and children to bring the total number of the group to 104. Official goodbyes were said on board. "Among the men there were many expressions of regret over going away, some thinking that this is the best station they have ever served on".<sup>5</sup> As the ship pulled away, the crowd of many hundreds on the wharf cheered and sang Auld Lang Syne. It was a fitting send off for a very popular garrison.

. It is of passing interest that there were two Canadians sailing as marines in the detachment: Gunner George Lincoln of Victoria, B.C., and Bombardier Bowes of London, Ontario.<sup>6</sup>

In Vancouver the detachment transferred to the Canadian Pacific Railway train which would take it to Montreal. Local newspapers reported their progress. The Montreal Gazette reported their arrival:

There passed through the city yesterday a company of the Royal Marine Artillery, their wives and children, from Esquimalt B.C., en route for England, Major W.F. Trotter is in command, the other officers being Captain G.R. Poole, Captain G.E. Barnes and Surgeon A.S.G. Bell. As all of the men possess good conduct badges and many have over seven years service, they were given leave to stretch their legs after the long journey across the continent. None of the men are under six feet in height, and they have shoulders to match. In fact, it was a long time ago that such a fine lot of stalwart men were seen in a body in this city. The men are young and active and seem ready for any emergency.<sup>7</sup>

The detachment boarded the liner Bavaria in Montreal for passage to England. During the trans Atlantic journey, the marines impressed the other passengers aboard with their bearing and discipline and with contributions to concerts and other shipboard activities. Many individuals were praised and the detachment as a whole was complimented in speeches.<sup>8</sup>

When the detachment reached Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth, England, a full report on its achievements during its tour of garrison duty was passed to the Admiralty. Subsequently a General Order was published which read in part:

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having had under their consideration the Report of Inspection made by the Rear-Admiral Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Station, relative to the conduct of the detachment of the RM Artillery, during the six years they served at Esquimalt; a period during which in the words of the Commander-in-Chief they served with credit to themselves and to the Corps which forms part of the Navy.

Their lordships have been pleased to signify that this detachment is to be informed that the Admiralty have received with much satisfaction the Commander-in-Chief's reports of its excellent conduct, good discipline and efficiency, and the good example they have set during their term of service at Esquimalt.<sup>9</sup>

It remained only for the Colonel Commandant Royal Marine Artillery to acknowledge the close ties which had developed between the detachment and the militia gunners during the detachment's years of garrison duty. The following letter was received by the 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery and was published in its regimental orders on 8 November 1899:

Eastney Barracks  
Portsmouth  
19 Oct '99

Dear Sir,

On the return of Major Trotter and his party from

Esquimalt he has informed me of the very friendly and enthusiastic "send off" accorded to them all by yourself and the officers of the 1st and 2nd Battalions 5th Regt CA and on behalf of the officers and men of the Royal Marine Artillery I should like to take this opportunity of telling you how much this has been appreciated by all ranks of the Corps and how thoroughly the good feeling you have shown to our comrades is' reciprocated by us, occurring as **it** does at the present time the incident is of especial value to illustrate the thorough sympathy that exists between the Imperial and Colonial Forces when all parts of the Empire are drawing together to serve her Majesty the Queen and to guarantee the integrity of the Dominions.

Major Trotter also brings us a very beautiful cup presented to the RMA Mess by yourself and the officers of the 5th Regiment Canadian Artillery. We should like to say how very much we shall always appreciate **it** as a remembrance of the pleasant associations of our officers and men with yours at Esquimalt and to add that we hope any member of the CA when visiting England will remember that they will always be most heartily welcome at our headquarters at Eastney .

Believe me  
 Very sincerely Yours  
 St. Guise Tucker (Signature)  
 Colonel Commandant RMA<sup>10</sup>

The ties forged during the detachment's garrison duty were particularly strong for some individuals: so strong that many years later they would retire at the end of their service to live in the Victoria area. See Appendix D.

## Epilogue

In 1878 spare guns from store at the Royal Navy's yards at Esquimalt were mounted in earthworks along the sea front to defend Victoria and Esquimalt. It seemed at the time as if war between Russia and Britain would break out at any moment. The Admiralty was anxious to protect Esquimalt as a base for operations against the Russian Pacific Fleet, the local government and population felt exposed, isolated and threatened and the Canadian government sought protection for its new although distant west coast. Imperial, local and Dominion authorities cooperated in the common cause of hurriedly providing defences.

There was no British-Russian war in 1878, but the scare of one served to focus attention on the deficiencies in the British Empire's defences. Britain set out to remedy these, first with a Royal Commission to enquire into the state of the defences and to make recommendations, and then with a Colonial Defence Committee in London to coordinate the implementation of the adopted recommendations. The cooperation of the Dominions and Colonies of the Empire was essential to the implementation process. It was given, but the diplomacy involved and the tenuous communications of the period prevented any overnight success. There was a steady and continuous improvement of the defences of selected ports and coaling stations throughout the empire over the next three decades.

Canada and Britain made an agreement to share the defence of Esquimalt in 1893. Britain was to supply the armament and a small regular garrison. Canada would provide a barracks for the garrison, the land for new permanent fortifications and a militia force of both permanent and non-permanent units. Costs would be shared and Britain would design and supervise the construction of all works. Thus, together, Britain and Canada would replace the hastily erected, locally manned defences of 1878 with permanent batteries and trained troops.

The agreement proved sound in principle but deficient in practice. A Royal Marine Artillery Detachment was the British garrison from 1893 until 1899. It raised the standard of gunnery and general military training of the local militia to an acceptable level of competence with the new armaments. The detachment although specially trained for the task of submarine mining did not practice it because of equipment deficiencies and did not train militia submarine miners because there was no formal commitment for this in the agreement. The permanent militia assigned to the garrison remained in Quebec, as agreed, but were unable to train on the type of guns placed in the new batteries. The local non-permanent militia increased in numbers to an authorized strength of 623 all ranks, all gunners, and with their large size and physical split between Victoria and Vancouver/New Westminster experienced administrative and command difficulties. No one was absolutely certain of how the new defences at Esquimalt would be commanded in war. The planned 6-inch batteries were completed, but the plans for heavier and lighter guns, incomplete in 1893, had to be revised to allow for technological and tactical development. While much had been accomplished under the agreement, there was an obvious need to improve various aspects of it if the desired standard of defence was to be obtained.

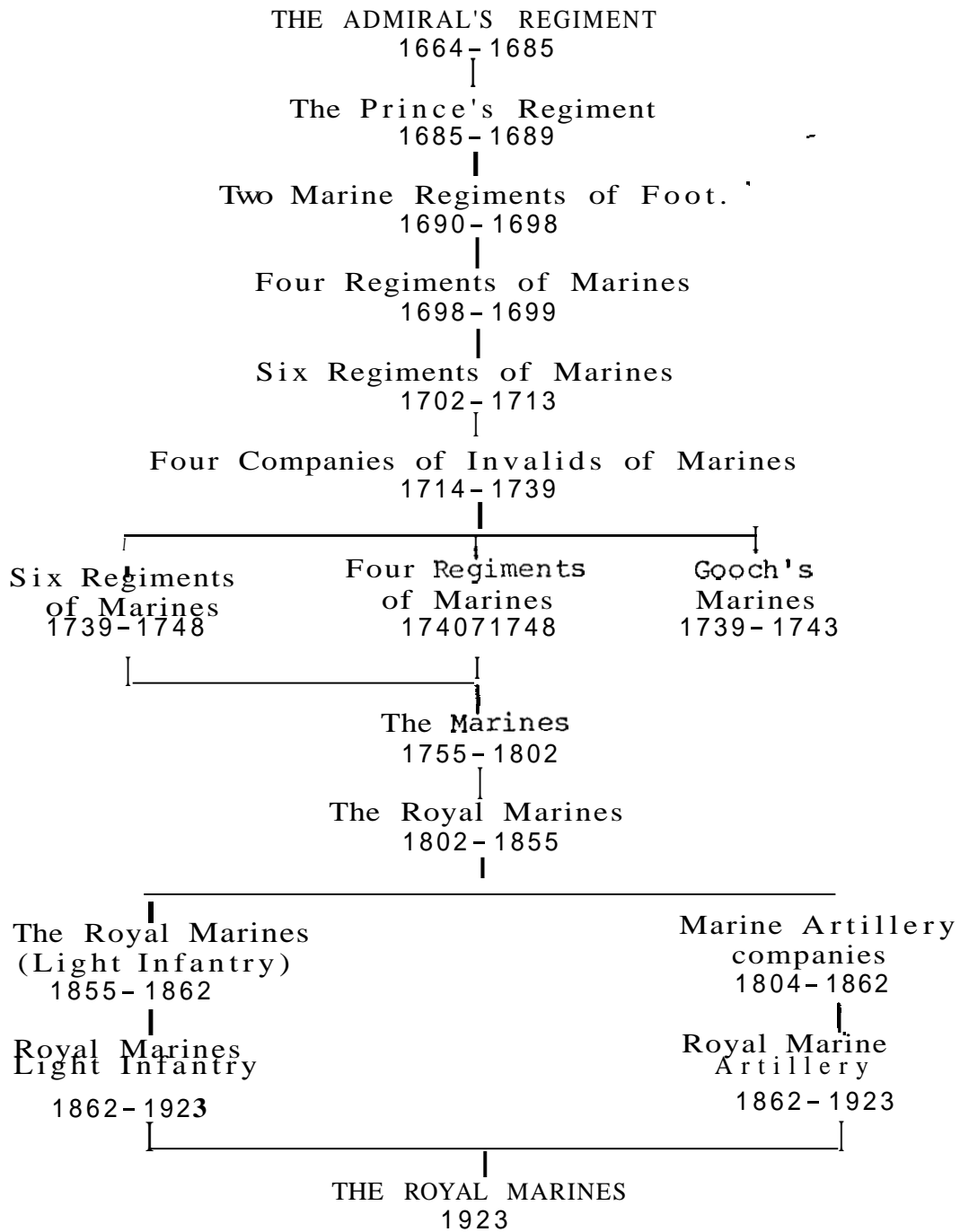
In 1896, the practical experience had already reached the point where a review of the terms of the agreement could be seen to be necessary. The review began in London, England. Matters of policy were settled first. The British authorities concluded that Canada and Britain should continue to share in the defence in the defence of Esquimalt, but Britain should take full responsibility for the command and efficiency of the defences for a period of ten years until Canada could assume that responsibility. Detailed discussion of armament and troops followed. It was decided that the defences should include the most modern armament: heavy guns for counter-bombardment, light guns and searchlights for harbour defence with a submarine minefield and a credible field

force for landward defence in addition to the 6-inch guns already in place. The number of British troops in the garrison would be scaled to provide an adequate core of regular troops for all aspects of the defences and Canada would provide non-permanent militia artillerymen, infantry and submarine miners to supplement the regular core to the full strength necessary to man the defences in war. This was a much more practical plan for ensuring an efficient defence of Esquimalt.

Britain and Canada made a new agreement in 1899 on the terms *of* the review conducted in London. The new agreement ended the Royal Marine Artillery period of the history of Victoria and Esquimalt. The practical results gained from the first agreement of 1893 would form the base upon which the new agreement would build to bring the defences to a complete state of acceptable efficiency within the larger Imperial plan for the defence *of* selected ports and coaling stations throughout the British Empire. It was expected that by the end *of* the ten year period of the 1899 agreement Canada would be in a position to fully assume all responsibility for the defence of the Esquimalt naval establishment.

Appendix A

Genealogical Tree of The Royal Marines





Appendix B

Royal Marine Artillery Detachment Esquimalt Nominal  
Rolls, February 1894-September 1899.

Nominal-List of RMA Detachment serving at Esquimalt.1

Reg. No.	Rank	Name	Remarks
	Lieut	F.N. Templer	
		G.E. Barnes	
2011	Sergt	W.G. Sparrow	
2543		Robt Boyd	
2564		Albt Gibson	
2345	Gr	Richd Moon	
2203		Thos Hall	
2321		Henry Duck	
2616		John Ellingham	
2391		Davd Kelly	
2104		Fredk Whitehead	
1426		C.H. Corban	
2677		Geo Barraclough	
2444		C.R. Kelly	
2157		S. J. Bourner	
4391		Jos Allard	Officers Attendants
1883		G.W. Peach	
1529		John Frain	
1731		E.W. Lyons	

Royal Marine Artillery Barracks)  
Potsmouth. 26th Bebruary 1894.)

(Signature)

Nominal Return of RM Artillery Detachment for Esquimalt. 2

Reg No.	Rank	Name	If qual. as Sub: miner	Remarks
1047	Major	G.A.L. Rawstorne		
1895	Sergeant	F.F. Porter	NO	
3111		J.E.H. Phillips	NO	
2164	Corpl	E.D. Fry	NO	
3331		William Carleton	No	
3048		A.C. Bundy	No	
3638	Bomb	James Harris	No	
		R.D. Juffs	No	To relieve Glover in H.M.S. Champion
4119	Bugler	A.C. Boyce	No	
4240		W.H. Rann	No	
3324	Gunner	Tom Fuller	Yes	
3447		A.H. Wallis	Yes	
1792		Joseph Mew	Yes	
2016		H.C. Stallard	No	Attendant to Major Rawstorne
771		William Fido	No	
3008		J.P. Brennan	No	
2895		Charles Cannon	No	
1225		Henry Williams	No	
1912		George Preen	No	
913		Walter Xeates	No	
646		William Bruce	No	
672		J.G. Chown	No	
1061		Herbert Reynolds	No	
3911		J.J. Sawyer	No	
4110		Thomas Shaw	No	
2425		Levi Hardwood	No	
3113		James Osborne	No	
1945		George Richardson	No	
3825		Thomas James	No	
1026		Andrew Padden	NO	
3803		George Bridle	No	
4318		William Spurrier	No	
4577		Edgar Nicholson	NO	
4559		Charley Butler	NO	
4721		Abraham Osborne	No	
4621		Harold Kemp	No	
4588		F.J. Webb	NO	
4616		H.W. Gadsby	No	
3970		Robert Spencer	NO	
4669		Thomas Blackman	No	
3996		J.R.E. Davis	NO	
4651		Ernest Sherwood	No	
3185		H.W. Edwards	NO	
4611		John Othen	No	
4672		Peter Sweeney	NO	

4683	A.V. Creed	No
4684	J.S. Brown	No
4689	C.D. Ayton	No
1016	R.H. Nunn	No
4690	George Hall	No
4734	George Stewart	No
4714	J.H. Buxton	No
2316	Frank Hatcher	No
2107	William Sheeler	No
4687	Richd Lewellyn	No
4707	Felix McNickle	

Examined

(Signature)

Major and Staff Officer

Royal Marine Artillery Barracks  
Portsmouth 6th February 1894.

(Signature)

Colonel Commandant

Monthly Return of the Detachment of Royal Marines

Serving at Esquimalt B.C.

Royal Marine Artillery Division, Date. 1st September 1899<sup>3</sup>

Reg. No.	Name	Rank	How Employed	Joined	Remarks
	W.F. Trotter	Major	R.M.A. O.C.		
	G.E. Barnes	Captain	Submarine Miner		
2564	G.R. Poole	Captain	"		
	A. Gibson	Col Sergt	"	2.8.93	Military Mechanist and Electrician
4486	W. Hubbard	Sergt	"	13.11.97	Electrician
2444	C.R. Kelly	Pd Lce Sgt	"	2.8.93	Electrician and Instrument Repairer
2616	J. Ellingham	Corp	"	2.8.93	Electrician
2677	G. Barraclough	Corp	"	2.8.93	Engine Driver
2203	T. Hall	Gunner	"	2.8.93	Instrument Repairer
2391	D. Kelly	Gunner	"	2.8.93	Electrician
2104	F. Whitehead	Gunner	"	2.8.93	Diver
2157	S.H. Bourner	Gunner	"	2.8.93	Electrician
1529	J. Frain	Gunner	"	2.8.93	Engine Diver
1792	J. Mew	Gunner	"	8.3.94	Electrician
1731	E.W. Lyons	Gunner	"	2.8.93	Engine Driver
344i	A.H. Wallis	Gunner	"	8.3.94	Engine Driver
2720	J. Jones	Gunner	"	29.1.98	Electrician
3555	A.G. Cook	Gunner	"	17.10.97	Engine Driver
444:	A. Archer	Pd a/Br	"	17.9.98	Engine)not em-Driver)ployed S.M.M.)as SMM
1401	J. Cowen	Gunner	"	10.6.97	Actg QrMr
2578	G.H. Wolfe	Sergt	Clerk to O.C	6.11.97	and Barrack Sergt
2652	G. Boulton	Sergt	General duty	17.9.98	
2852	G.M. Bayley	Corp	Clerk to Det	17.9.98	at Naval Yard
5365	J. Reeder	Corp	General duty	13.11.98	
5958	G.L. Rose	Br	Caretaker	17.9.98	Fort Macaulay
2107	W. Wheller	Br	Caretaker	8.3.94	Fort Rodd Hill
2186	M. Fletcher	a/Br	Canteen Mangr	21.5.95	
572f	J.E. Norris	Bugler	General duty	17.10.97	
2085	J. Warren	Gunner	Attendant	31.10.95	Capt Poole

2316	F. Hatcher	Gunner	General duty	8.3.94	
2016	H.C. Stallard	Gunner	General duty	17.9.98	
3975	T.H. Woodrow	Gunner	General duty	17.9.98	
1075	J.R. Riey	Gunner	Caretaker	10.11.98	Fort Macaulay
4611	J. Othen	Gunner	Carter	8.3.94	
2613	A. Marshall	Gunner	General duty	7.2.99	
2904	A.E. Cleveland	Gunner	General duty	17.9.98	
3185	H.H. Edwards	Gunner	Clerk	8.3.94	Armt Office
3911	J.J. Sawyer	Gunner	Orderly	8.3.94	to O.C.R.E.
1615	A. Hewlett	Gunner	Attendant	20.5.97	Maj Trotter
4885	T. Heasman	Gunner	Postman and Storeman	26.3.99	
4684	J.S. Brown	Gunner	General duty	8.3.94	
3996	J.R.E. Davis,	Gunner	General duty	813.94	
4177	R. Yarnell	Gunner	Caretaker	1.10.95	Fort Macaulay
2122	G.L. Wiseman	Gunner	Caretaker	17.9.98	Fort Rodd Hill
4690	G. Hall	Gunner	Mens Cook	8.3.94	
4588	F.J. Webb	Gunner	General duty	8.3.94	
5177	G. Food	Gunner	Groom	10.6.97	to O.C.
2833	W.J. Tothill	Gunner	Groom	11.11.97	to Lt.-Col Peters
4702	T. Raynsford	Gunner	General duty	23.12.97	
6835	H.G. Lincoln	Gunner	General duty	26.11.98	
1945	G. Richardson	Gunner	General duty	8.3.94	
4157	W.J. Turner	Gunner	Librarian	17.9.98	
5259	R. Irving	Gunner	Assistant Artificer	8.9.96	
771	W. Fido	Gunner	Barber and Lamptrimmer	8.3.94	
5321	W. Sheriff	Gunner	Shoemaker	17.9.98	
2651	H.J. Tanner	Gunner	Attendant	23.10.95	to Capt Barnes
4714	J.H. Buxton	Gunner	Attendant	8.3.94	Surgeon astn
2802	T. Morris	Gunner	Canteen Assistant	1.12.98	
4110	T. Shaw	Gunner	Sergts Cook	8.3.94	
4391	J. Alland	Gunner	Clerk	3.12.95	
3803	G. Bridle	Gunner	Tailor	8.3.94	
913	W. Keates	Gunner	Carpenter	8.3.94	
4114	J. Williams	Gunner	General duty	23.12.97	
1593	T. Harris	Gunner	General duty	10.11.98	
3280	A. Roberts	Gunner	General duty	10.11.98	
2114	C. Wildes	Gunner	General duty	17.9.98	
1967	J. Sanders	Gunner	Caretaker	10.11.98	Fort Rodd Hill
1727	W. Lovely	Gunner	General duty	13.6.98	
1912	G. Preen	Gunner	Pioneer	8.3.94	
6588	E. O'Connell	Gunner	General duty	18.7.99	
6761	H. Donaldson	Gunner	General duty	18.7.99	

ABSTRACT

	Total	Establishment
Majors	1	1
Captains	2	2
color-Sergeants	1	1
Sergeants	3	3
corporals	5	5
Bombardiers	2	2
Buglers	1	2
Gunners	56	59
Total	71	75
women	12	12
children	28	28

1 Surgeon R.N. for duty with R.M.A. Det.

(Surgeon A.S.G. Bell R.N.)

(signed: W.F. Trotter)  
Major R.M.A.  
Commanding Detachment

List of Married men serving at Esquimalt RMA Submarine Mining  
 Detachment 14 March 1894.

Rank	Name	No. Children	Remarks
Sgt	N.G. Sparrow	1	
Sgt	Gibson	2	
Gnr	C.A. Kelly	1	wife expected to be confined daily
	J. Ellingham	2	
	D. Kelly	NIL	
	H. Duck	1	
	F. Whitehead	1	
	S.J. Bourner	NIL	wife expected to be confined daily
	G.W. Peach	2	wife did not wish to go out.

[Note. This list was compiled at the RMA Barracks Portsmouth. Families had not yet joined the Detachment at Esquimalt. It is known that the wife and four children of Gnr R.H. Nunn travelled with the families who came out to Esquimalt in 1895. It is possible that the Nunn family was substituted for the Peach family listed above.]

## Appendix C

Royal Marine Artillery Detachment Esquimalt. Reports on cross-Canada rail journey, 1894, and on Esquimalt as a military station, 1896.

Report of the details of journey by rail from Halifax to Vancouver B.C. made by Detacht RMA commanded by Major G.A.L. Rawstone RMA commencing 20th March 1894.<sup>1</sup>

Date	Details	Temperature
20.3.94	Departure from Halifax 1 p.m. by Inter-colonial Railway, thus avoiding the troops entering the state of Maine. Guard consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 2 gunners posted in 4 hour watches. This arrangment was carried out for the entire journey.	MODERATE
21.3.94	Arrived at Campbellton 8 a.m. Men breakfasted in hotel. Inspection of men and cars at 10 a.m. Arrived at Quebec 5:30 p.m. Departure from Quebec 10:30 p.m.	
22.3.94	Arrived at Montreal 6:30 p.m. Paraded Detacht in M.O. at 10:15 a.m. followed by march thro. the city. Detacht present at exhibition at Central Fire station. Departure from Montreal 4:50 p.m.	ABOVE FREEZING POINT
23.3.94	Sudbury 11:15 a.m. Detachment paraded on platform and marched up & down at the double and quick time. Cars aired.	MODERATE
24.3.94	Schreiber 9:15. Strong wind blowing, too cold for the men to leave the cars, they having no protection for the ears. Inspection of men 10 a.m. Fort William 6 p.m. Detacht paraded on platform and went for short march. No wind. Cars aired	10 DEGREES BELOW ZERO  10 DEGREES BELOW ZERO
25.3.94	Arrived at Hawk Lake 8 a.m. Inspection 10 a.m. Winnipeg 4 p.m. Detachment headed by band of Royal Canadian Dragoons marched thro. town. Cars cleaned and aired.	10 DEGREES BELOW ZERO



26.3.94	Inspection 10 a.m. Moosejaw 10:40 a.m. Short march half an hour. Cars aired.	ABOVE FREEZING
27.3.94	Inspection 10 a.m. Canmore 12 noon, short march and cars aired. Field 3:20 paraded on platform, cars aired.	ABOVE FREEZING
28.3.94	North bend 1 p.m. paraded on platform cars aired. Vancouver 6 p.m. Embarked on Canadian Pacific Navigation Company steamer,..	ABOVE FREEZING POINT
29.3.94	Victoria, B.C. 1. a.m.	

### Suggestions

- I. During winter season, advisable that troops should be supplied with warm covering for head and ears, the helmet not being of much protection altho. improved by stopping ventilation by means of handkerchief stuffed into top. The sudden change from warm cars to outside cold is very great especially when there is any wind.
- II. Before leaving the ship, the valises were packed with:-  
1 serge tunic. "soldiering" and "cleaning" gear books, tobacco etc. pipeclay boxes being divided between every 3 or 4 men. I found this arrangement excellent, as no other change of clothing was required during the journey by rail, and bags could not be got at.
- III. Cribbage, backgammon, draught boards, men and playing cards for cribbages are most necessary in my opinion. These we had in sufficient numbers provided by this Detcht.

(Signed) G.A.L.     Rawstone  
Major R.M.A.

Report on Esquimalt as a garrison station by Lieutenant Colonel G.A.L. Rawstone RMA after *his* return to England in 1897 after handing over command.<sup>2</sup>

### ESQUIMALT

#### Desertion

American territory being so close and communications frequent, desertion is an easy matter. During the 3 years ~~of~~ my Command, we had 6 desertions, several caused by men getting into money difficulties. The tradesmen are or were very ready to let the men get into debt, altho I "cried down credit" on arrival. The Chinese gambling dens are a cause of trouble. I left before the Klondyke rush.

#### Sports and Recreation

- (a) For Officers and Men  
Cricket and Football Work Point Barracks has a very fair cricket pitch laid and drained by my people.  
Golf United Service Links  
Victoria Golf Club—Officers only.  
Salmon Fishing opposite the Barracks (trawling)
- (b) For Officers  
Many Lawn Tennis Parties during season  
Victoria Cricket & Football Clubs

## Sports & Recreation Continued

Trout Fishing some way up the country by rail on the Cowichan River and Lake. A certain amount of shooting Pheasant, Blue Willow and Grouse Wild Duck. Big game shooting entailing some considerable expense & of course roughing it. . .

## Climate

Beautiful, no rain from June to October, very occasional thunder storms. Heavy rains and snow in winter. Temperature throughout **the** year much the same as South of England. Men and Officers require well greased Wellington hoots for snow work and wet, worn over trousers.

## Accommodation for Married N.C.O.'s and Men

About 8 quarters - rather cramped in Work point Barracks. A certain amount of accommodation close to the Barracks can be obtained. Victoria is about 2 miles from Bks.

## Drink

The spirits sold at the bars frequented by the humbler classes are poison. After careful consideration I allowed spirits to be sold in the Canteen - under strict regulation as to quantity - obtained from the best firms in the place and found the result eminently satisfactory. Beer good and cheap.

A polo club was started while I was serving in Vancouver Island, but I don't think it remained long in existence. There is no lack of amusement for Officers or Men. The Golf Club is in the hands of the Officers, the ground being the property of the Hudson's Bay Company whose employees were all invited to become Hon. Members without Fees.

G.A.L. Rawstorne  
Lt. Col. R.M.A.

## Appendix D

Royal Marine Artillery Detachment Esquimalt. Brief biographies of officers and selected other ranks.

### Officers

Barnes, George Edward.

Born 1865, Edinburgh, Scotland. Parents General and Mrs. George R. Barnes, MD. Three sisters and a brother.. Educated at Cheltenham College-and the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. Joined RMA as Second Lieutenant 1 September 1883. Served in HMS Agincourt, 1887-1889, and HMS Audacious, 1891-1892 with Channel Fleet. Trained in submarine mining. To Esquimalt with RMA advance party of submarine miners August 1893. Captain 1 September 1894. Returned to England with RMA Detachment September 1899. Served in South Africa during Boer War 1899-1902, at Modder River, Kimberley, Vryberg, and relief of Mafeking. Queens medal with three clasps, Kings medal with two clasps. Seconded as adjutant, Forfar and Kincardine Artillery Militia, May 1902-1905. Retired at own request as Major 1 September 1906, to live at Westholme and then Crofton, Vancouver Island. Returned to active duty February 1915. Instructor Land service gunnery RMA, France, 1916. Commanded Howitzer Brigades Depot and RMA Recruits Depot, Eastney Barracks, Plymouth. Mentioned in despatches, C.B.E. (Military Division), 1919. Lieutenant-Colonel, 1919. Retired to Crofton, Vancouver Island. Died at his home at Sherard Point, Crofton 3 November 1928. Buried All Saints Church graveyard, Chemainus River. Lieutenant-General Poole and five former other ranks who served with him at Work Point Barracks, Esquimalt attended the funeral. General Poole's grave is next to that of Colonel Barnes. Lieutenant-Colonel Barnes was survived by his wife the former Miss Florence Annie Barkley, who died in 1929 and was buried in All Saints Church graveyard, a son, Lieutenant Commander George Barkley F. Barnes R.C.N., and three sisters and a brother in England. Commander Barnes presented his father's uniform mess jacket, vest and trousers to Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Park in 1974. A photograph exists of Lieutenant G.E. Barnes wearing the uniform.

Bell Arthur Sydney Gordon

Commissioned as Surgeon RN, November 1892. Appointed to HMS Imperieuse, flagship Pacific Station for duty at Esquimalt Barracks for service with detachments of RMA and RE, December 1894-99. Staff Surgeon, November 1900. Appointed to HMS Cambridge at Devonport, 1904, and HMS Iphigenia, May 1907. Fleet Surgeon and retired November 1908. Rejoined 1914 to serve in HMS Victory at Portsmouth dockyard. Retired finally in 1916.

Poole, Gerald Robert

Born 17 January 1868. Joined the Royal Marine Artillery as Second Lieutenant 1 September 1885. As a subaltern, served in HM ships Black Prince, Audacious, Ramillies and Imperieuse. Served with RMA Detachment Esquimalt 1895-1899. Promoted Captain 19 June 1896. Obtained Special Certificate at Artillery College course. Served in H.M.S. Irresistible. Brevet Major 1906. Seconded to Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery, Quebec, 1906-1912. Promoted Major 1 July 1908. Served in HMS Inflexible in Mediterranean, 1912-1914. Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 1913. Commanded RMA Howitzer Brigade in France, 1915-1919. Lieutenant Colonel 9 February 1916. Awarded the C.B., C.M.G. and D.S.O., and was three times mentioned in despatches. Colonel Commandant RMA 3 October 1921 - 11 September 1922. Promoted Major-General. Married Gertrude Katherine Dunne, 3 September 1924. Retired with rank of Lieutenant-General, 11 December 1925, to live at Crofton, Vancouver Island. Died 20 October 1937. Buried in All Saints Church graveyard, Che-mainus River, next to Lieutenant-Colonel Barnes.

Rawstone, George Albert Lawrence

**Born** 15 July 1849. Commissioned Lieutenant R.M.A. 24 June 1868. Assistant to Professor of Fortification at R.N. College 1877-1878. Captain 21 July 1879, Served in RMA Bat-

talion in Egyptian expedition 1882 - Actions at El Magfar, Tel-el-Mahuta, both actions at Kassassin, battle of Tel-el-Kebir, mentioned in despatches London Gazette 19 September 1882, medal with clasp, bronze star. Gunnery Instructor RMA 8 January 1887-5 August 1891. Major 22 June 1887. Commanded RMA Detachment Esquimalt 1894-1897. Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel 22 June 1894. Lieutenant-Colonel 12 June 1897. Retired 21 October 1898.

Templer, Frederick Napier

Born 6 August 1865. Fourth son of James George John Templer, Esq., J.P., of Lindridge, Teignmouth, Devon. Commissioned as Lieutenant RMA 1 September 1883. Served in HMS Shannon on coast of Ireland August 1887-July 1889. Trained in submarine mining at Chatham and Portsmouth. Commanded advance party of submarine miners of RMA Detachment for Esquimalt 1893. Captain 1 September 1894. Twelve months sick leave beginning October 1895, and went out to South Africa via Sydney, Australia for the beneficial climate there, but died at Bloemfontein on 8 February 1896 of phthisis (tuberculosis) first diagnosed at Esquimalt.

Trotter, Warren Francis

Born 1858. Commissioned 1 September 1876. Served in bombardment of Alexandria, Egypt, July 1882, and Egyptian campaign. Awarded medal and clasp and Khedive's bronze star. Captain 5 April 1886. Major 1 May 1895. Commanded RMA Detachment Esquimalt 1897-1899. Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, 1899, as Barrack Master Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. Colonel 16 October 1909. Retired 18 October 1912. Died June 1917. Buried Windermere, England.

#### Other ranks

The following marines of the detachment are known to have graves in British Columbia having died during their service at Esquimalt or after settling in the province subsequent to their service in Esquimalt.

Boyce A.C. (Regimental No. 4119)

Born 20 October 1874 at Portsmouth, England. Arrived at Esquimalt with main body of detachment 1894. Probably purchased discharge there. Served in Boer War. Married Miss Johnston at Presbyterian Church, Victoria, B.C. 1904. Two daughters; in August 1981, Mrs. Audrey McCallion and Mrs. Helen Erickson both of Victoria, B.C.. Died 20 October 1954. Cremated. Ashes interred Royal Oak Cemetery Victoria, B.C., name on stone.

Fry, John (Regimental No. 4762)

Born Bayford, Stoke Trister, (Near Wincanton) , Somerset, England, 16 June 1873. Father Sampson Fry, mother Mary Fry née Read. Enlisted in the Royal Marines at Aberdare, South Wales, while working as a miner, 27 December 1892. Served as Royal Marine Artillery gunner (no. 4762) aboard HMS's Centurion (14 February 1894- 1 March 1894), Colossus, Comus, and then on two vessels on the Pacific Station; HMS Royal Arthur (7 March 1896), Imperieuse (1 January - 1 May 1897). Posted to Royal Marine Artillery Detachment, Esquimalt, 2 May 1897. One good conduct badge while on this duty. Purchased discharge (L25) 23 May 1898 in Esquimalt. Joined 2 Canadian Mounted Rifles in Nelson 10 December 1901 (No. 386) Served in South Africa. Queen's medal with bars: South Africa, 1902, Transvaal, Cape Colony. Discharged in British Columbia 30 June 1902. Joined Victoria city police 1903. Promoted sergeant 1914. Chief Constable 1921-31. Died Victoria and buried in family plot Ross Bay Cemetery, Victoria, 7 November 1946. Survived by wife Rose, 1894-1971, brothers Eli, 1877-1964, a baker in Duncan before 1914, and Frank, 1882-1915, all buried later in the family grave, and a daughter Mrs. Louise Mary Kaiser, 721 Cowper Street, Victoria.



Hatcher, Frank (Regimental Number 2316)

Joined RMA 1886. Served in HMS Tamar, 1886. Shipmate to King George V when he was a midshipman aboard HMS Alexandra. Arrived Esquimalt with main body of RMA Detachment 1894. Base drummer in Detachment's fife and drum band. See Figure 3. Discharged Esquimalt 1899. Lived in Victoria, B.C. Enlisted in local militia, 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery, 1899. Janitor at Colonist newspaper, 1904. Licence inspector, Provincial Government, 1908-12. Served with 10 Artillery Brigade CEF, 1915-18. Awarded Medaille Militaire of France. Rejoined local militia in Victoria, B.C., 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Garrison Artillery, 1920. RSM of regiment on retirement 1930. Son Hector, aged 80, living in Victoria 1981.

Nunn, R.H. (Regimental Number 1016)

Served in Egypt during 1884-90. Married in England. Wife and four children, Robert W, Alfred H., May and Ellen, came out on Assyrian from England to Esquimalt with other families of RMA Detachment in 1895. A son, Robert William Nunn, married Elinor Seed. He was a plumbers apprentice at dockyard until 1906 then with B.C. Electric for 42 years. His son Robert is a resident of Victoria and his daughter Phyliss is now deceased. Alfred Henry Nunn, married Elsie Dunn. May Nunn married Ralph Leamon. Ellen Nunn, married a Corporal of HMS Sparrowhawk and moved to Australia; 3 daughters, one son.

Came out with main body of RMA Detachment in 1894. Resided locally after service. Night watchman at dry dock 1904, teamster 1908, labourer 1912.

Medals, cap badge, wooden name stamp, bayonet and scabbard, mementos of his service in the RMA, donated to Parks Canada by grandson Robert.

Reynolds, Herbert (Regimental Number 1061)

Arrived at Esquimalt with main body of detachment 1894. Died 18 February 1895 in Royal Naval Hospital, Esquimalt, age 39

years, at end of his service - due to return to England on pension September 1895. Buried 20 February 1895 in Royal Naval Cemetery Esquimalt, now Veterans cemetery, No grave marker.

Stallard, Harry C. (Regimental No. 2016)

Born 1862. Joined RMA Detachment Esquimalt 17 September 1898. Retired to Victoria, B.C. Worked in the dockyard Esquimalt in the 1930's. Unmarried. Buried 10 May 1935, Veterans Cemetery, Esquimalt.

Wolfe, George Henry (Regimental No. 2578)

Joined RMA Detachment, Esquimalt, 6 November 1897. Sergeant Clerk to Officer Commanding Detachment, Acting Quartermaster and Barrack Sergeant, 1899. Retired as Sergeant-Major to Victoria, B.C. Steward of the Union Club, Victoria, B.C., 1904-12, Lived in Duncan, B.C. in the 1920's.

Appendix E

Breakdown by trades of Royal Marine Artillery Submarine Miners <sup>1</sup>  
at Esquimalt and increase in strength recommended 5 April, 1896.

No. of Submarine Miners at present serving at Esquimalt.	Estimated required strength of Submarine Mining Department.	No Of Submarine Miners that will be required in addition.
Electricians- I.C.O.s, very superior 2 superior 2 Gunners, superior 4	2 2 19	NIL  15
Engine-Drivers- Gunner, superior 5	5	NIL
Blacksmith- Gunners NIL	1	1
Instrument repairer- Gunner, superior 1	1	NIL
Sub-Miners- N.C.O., superior 1 Gunner 1 Gunners, ordinary NIL	1 1 20	NIL  20
Storemen- N.C.O. Clerk NIL Gunner	1 1	1 1
Deck-hands- Gunners NIL	3	3
Coxswains- N.C.O. superior NIL Gunner "	1 1	1 1
Stokers- Gunners NIL	2	2
Should additional Search Light be approved- Electricians NIL Engine - drivers	3 1	3 1
TOTALS 16	65	49

## Appendix F

List of Royal Artillery, Royal Engineer, Royal Army Medical Corps and Army Ordnance Corps personnel stationed at Work Point Barracks in the period May 1893 - September 1899. <sup>1</sup>

### Royal Artillery

2nd Class Master Gunner (Warrant Officer) A.H. Wild	29 April. 1896-
Sergeant Armament Artificer Watson	29 April 1896-
Gunner E. Holmes	present 1899-

### Royal Engineers

Major H.H. Muirhead	3 September 1893-1 September 1898
Major A. Grant	1 September 1898-
Lieutenant H.W. Gordon	1 May 1894 - 1 November 1897
Lieutenant G.C.E. Elliott	1 November 1897-
Superintending Clerk T.H. Tennent	present 1896-
Sergeant Major J. McArthur	9 April 1895-9 March 1899 and then continued as Pensioner
Foreman of Works	Foreman of Works.

Quartermaster Sergeant G. Reeve	29 August 1893-
R. Jenkinson	1 May 1894-
Assistant Clerk W. Prevost	present 1898-
Draftsman A.J. Dresser	present 1898-
Sergeant F. Guest	present 1898-
Corporal T.J. Gabriel	present 1898-
Lance Corporal D. Stewart	9 March 1899-
Lance Corporal W, Phillips	present 1898-
Corporal Green	present August 1899-
Corporal Baker	present August 1899-

### Detachment of 18 Fortress Company Royal Engineers.

1 May 1894-One officer, 20 other ranks  
1 November 1898-Two officers, two warrant officer, 21 Sappers.  
1 January 1900-One officer, 31 other ranks including 7 submarine miners who arrived in September 1899.

Note: these **totals** included many of the individuals named above.

Army Ordnance Corps

Armament Quartermaster Sergeant W.A. Higgitt present 1899-

Royal Army Medical Corps

Corporal Chapman (compounder) present 1899-

Appendix G

Russian and United States naval strengths in the Pacific 1896.<sup>1</sup>

Russia

		Displacement	Principal Armament
ARMOUR-CLADS		TONS	
Battle-ship Class Armoured Cruisers	Imperator Nikolai Rurik Pamyat Azova Admiral Nnkbimov Dmitrii Donskoi Vladimir Monomakh Rossiya Gremyashchii Otvajnnii	8,400 10,933 6,000 7,700 5,700 5,700 12,300 1,492 1,492	2-12". 4-9". 8-6". 4-8". 16-6"q. 6-4.7"q. 2-8". 13-6". 8-8". 10-6". 6-6". 10-4.7"q. 4-8". 12-6". 4-C". 24-6". 6-4.7"q. 1-9". 1-6". 1-9". 1-6".
UNARMOURED			
Cruiser, 2nd Class Protected sloops and smaller vessels Torpedo-boats	Admiral Kornilov  Twelve in number Fifteen in number (seven 1st class and eight 2nd class)	5,000	14-6".

United States

PACIFIC COAST		DISPLACEMENT	ARMAMENT
<p>ARMOUR-CLADS</p> <p>Battle-ship, 1st Class Coast Defence</p>	<p>Oregon Monterey Monadnock Comanche</p>	<p>TONS</p> <p>10,288 4,084 3,900 1,875</p>	<p>4-13". 8-8". 4-6". 2-12". 2-10". 4-10". 2-4"q. Uncertain</p>
<p>UNARMOURED</p> <p>Cruisers- 2nd Class, Protected</p> <p>Unprotected</p>	<p>Philadelphia Baltimore Charleston Hartford</p>	<p>4,324 4,413 3,730 2,790</p>	<p>12-6" 4-8". 6-6". 2-8". 6-6". 13-53.</p>
<p>3rd Class</p> <p>Sloops and smaller vessels</p>	<p>Concord Bennington Marion Mohican</p> <p>Six in number</p>	<p>1,710 1,710 1,900 1,900</p>	<p>6-6". 6-6". Uncertain 8-9" s. 1-8" M.</p>
<p>CHINA COAST</p> <p>UNARMOURED</p> <p>cruisers</p> <p>1st Class, Protected</p> <p>2nd "</p> <p>3rd " Unprotected</p> <p>One sloop and paddle- steamer</p>	<p>Olympia Boston Detroit Yorktown</p>	<p>5,870 3,000 2,089 1,710</p>	<p>4-8". 10-5"q. 2-8". 6-6". 9-5"q. 6-6".</p>

NOTE: Armament is shown by distinguishing letters viz:-  
M = Muzzle-loading, QF. = Quick firing, s=muzzle loading  
q. } smooth bore

NUMBERS AND AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF PROPOSED GARRISON AT ESQUIMALT<sup>1</sup>

APPENDIX H	NUMBERS											LOCAL MILITIA		
	ROYAL ARTILLERY			ROYAL ENGINEERS										
Officers	2	-	7	-	2	2	1	-	1	15	3	3	15	23
Warrant Officers	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Non-commissioned Officers and Men	1	1	200	1	42	46	4	4	6	305	150	50	400	600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>623</b>
<b>COST IN POUNDS STERLING</b>														
Pay, Regimental Allowances, & Clothing	1120	165	6750	212	2350	2370	483	193	650	14,293				
Provisions, Colonial Allowances, & Arms, Ammunition, Barrack Stores	5	10	740	15	200	220	5	15	22	1,232				
Transport by land and sea	410	110	9030	120	2080	2170	190	170	220	14,500				
Maintenance of Barracks & Pensions, & Home Charges	2	4	610	7	260	160	2	8	11	1,064				
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,100				
	12	7	420	7	160	175	7	15	22	825				
	408	15	2327	15	721	751	231	31	246	4,745				
	8	15	1500	15	315	345	30	30	45	2,303				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1965</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>21377</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>6086</b>	<b>6191</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>1216</b>	<b>42,062</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9345</b>

NOTE: The Annual Cost of the Current RMA & RE garrison was L15,000



## Appendix I

### Gun Data, Mounted Coast Artillery, Esquimalt, 1899. <sup>1</sup>

#### Rodd Hill

Upper Battery	Lower Battery	Lower Battery
---------------	---------------	---------------

Ordnance	A/1	B/1	B/2
Groups and No.	6-inch BL	6-inch BL	6-inch BL
Nature	5 tons	5 tons	5 tons
Weight	VI	VI	VI
Mark	841	842	844
Reg. No.	575-10,000	300-10,000	300-10,000
Range in yards			

carriage	Disappearing	Disappearing	Disappearing
Nature	IV	IV	IV
Mark	A791	A792	A796
Reg. No.	20 <sup>o</sup>	20 <sup>o</sup>	20 <sup>o</sup>
Max. QE. elev	5 <sup>o</sup>	5 <sup>o</sup>	5 <sup>o</sup>
Max QE Depression	Yes	Yes	Yes
Electric firing gear	0-360 <sup>o</sup>	0-360 <sup>o</sup>	0-360 <sup>o</sup>
Traverse	true north	true north	true north
Zero of arc			
Arc reading at extreme lines of fire	150 <sup>o</sup> -242 <sup>o</sup>	148 <sup>o</sup> -230 <sup>o</sup>	134 <sup>o</sup> -221 <sup>o</sup>

#### Macaulay Point Battery

Ordnance	A/1	B/1	F/1
Group and No.	6-inch BL	6-inch BL	6-inch BL
Nature	5 tons	5 tons	5 tons
Weight	VI-1892	VI-1892	VI-1892
Mark	843	846	845
Reg. No.	400-10,000	400-10,000	400-10,000
Range in yards			

carriage	Disappearing	Disappearing	Disappearing
Nature	IV-1890	IV-1890	IV-1890
Mark	793	795	788
Reg. No.	20 <sup>o</sup>	20 <sup>o</sup>	20 <sup>o</sup>
Max QE elev	5 <sup>o</sup>	5 <sup>o</sup>	5 <sup>o</sup>
Max QE depression	Yes	Yes	Yes
Electric firing gear	0-360 <sup>o</sup>	0-360 <sup>o</sup>	0-360 <sup>o</sup>
Traverse	true north	true north	true north
Zero arc			
Arc reading at extremet lines of fire	63-206 <sup>o</sup>	59-243 <sup>o</sup>	131-255 <sup>o</sup>

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21. FRHM-37. Report on Inspection of Works, Barracks, etc., at Esquimalt, British Columbia by Lieutenant-Colonel C. Wilkinson R.E., C.R.E. in Canada, 29 October 1898.
22. FRH-BLR-GRP-001-1904. Record Plan, 9 June 1903.
23. FRHM-37. Report on Inspection of Works, Barracks, etc., at Esquimalt, British Columbia by Lieutenant-Colonel C. Wilkinson R.E., C.R.E. in Canada, 29 October 1898.

Training with the new armament

1. Daily Colonist (Victoria), 31 August 1894
2. 5th B.C. Battalion of Garrison Artillery Regimental Order of 6 September 1894.
3. Daily Colonist (Victoria) 15 September 1894
4. Ibid., 16 December 1894
5. Canada. Militia General Order, 26 January 1895.
6. Ibid., 20 July 1895
7. 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery, 1 Battalion Order of 13 February 1897.
8. Daily Colonist (Victoria) 23 October 1897.
9. Ibid., 31 October 1897.
10. Ibid., 5 November 1898
11. 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery. 1 Battalion Order of 2 December 1898.
12. Ibid , 26 April 1897
13. Ibid., 13 May 1899

14. Great Britain. Public Record Office. ADM 201/44, Memorandum by the Inspector *of* Submarine Mining Defences on the question of establishing a School of Submarine Mining at Esquimalt, 15 May 1891.

#### The Militia

1. Lieutenant-Colonel Prior was Premier of B.C. 1902-3 and Lieutenant-Governor from 1919 until his death on 12 December 1920. He was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1853, and landed at Nanaimo in 1873 as assistant manager of the Vancouver Coal Company, beginning his military service there as a Lieutenant in the Nanaimo Volunteer Infantry Company in 1874.
2. Canada. Militia General Order, 7 April 1893.
3. Daily Colonist (Victoria), 1 June 1893.
4. *Ibid.*, 10, 11, 12, 25 January 1894.
5. *Ibid.*, 14 December 1894.
6. British Columbia. Public Archives. OBR54. F.A. Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Garrison Artillery and Early Defences of the B.C. Coast" (Typescript) 1925.
7. Canada. Militia General Order, 8 September 1894.
8. British Columbia Battalion of Garrison Artillery. Regimental Order 13 January 1895.
9. Daily Colonist (Victoria) 15 June 1895.
10. British Columbia Battalion of Garrison Artillery. Regimental Order 7 June 1895.
11. British Columbia. Public Archives. OBR54. F.A. Robertson, "5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Garrison Artillery and Early Defences of the B.C. Coast" (Typescript) 1925.
12. Canada. Militia General Order, 13 April 1895.
13. *Ibid.*, 28 December 1895.
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16. Canada. Parliament, "Report on the State of the Militia of the Dominion *of* Canada (hereafter cited as Militia Report) for the year 1896" in Sessional Papers 1897 (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1897), p.22.

17. Canada. Militia General Order, 17 November 1896.
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19. 5th B.C. Regiment Canadian Artillery. 1 Battalion Order, 2 April 1897.
20. "Militia Report for the year ended 31st December 1897" in Sessional Papers 1898 (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1898), p.56.
21. Daily Colonist (Victoria), 17 December 1897.
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23. University of Toronto, C.S. Mackinnon, "The Imperial Fortresses in Canada: Halifax and Esquimalt, 1871-1906." Unpublished M.A. Thesis, 1965, p.286.
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#### Reappraisal and a New Agreement

1. Great Britain. Public Record Office. CAB37 43 03036. Memorandum upon the Defence of Esquimalt. Prepared by the Naval Intelligence Department and printed for the use of the Cabinet 11 December 1896.
2. Ibid., CAB 11 27 02983 Canada. Defence of Esquimalt. Memorandum by the Colonial Defence Committee. No. 79M October 26, 1896.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., ~~CAB~~ 37 44 03036. The Defence of Esquimalt. 8 January 1897.
5. Ibid., CAB 37 43 03036. Memorandum upon the Defence of Esquimalt. Prepared by the Naval Intelligence Department and printed for the use of the Cabinet 11 December 1896.
6. Ibid., CAB 8 1 02957. Colonial Defence Committee. Memorandum No. 104M, Esquimalt, Responsibility for Defence. 31 May 1897.
7. Ibid.
8. Great Britain. Ministry of Defence Library. IE 108. Report of Conference held on 10 November 1898. Enclosure III. Colonial Office to Admiralty 15 December 1897.
9. Ibid.

10. Ibid. Report of a Conference held at the Admiralty to consider the question of the responsibility for the Defence of Esquimalt in connection with the Garrison which, in the near future, will have to be provided for that place. 10 November 1898.
11. Ibid. W033 1581 X/L 03308. Extract from a report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by his Excellency on the 27th June, 1899.

RMA Detachment returns to England.

1. FRHM 0045. War Office internal minute, AAG to AG6, 2 September 1899.
2. Daily Colonist (Victoria), 23 September 1899.
3. Ibid., 29 September 1899.
4. Ibid. 29 September 1899.
5. The Times (Victoria), 29 September 1899.
6. Daily Colonist (Victoria), 29 September 1899.
7. Gazette (Montreal), 5 October 1899.
8. Great Britain. The Royal Marines. Globe and Laurel, 7 November 1899.
9. Ibid.
10. 5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery. Regimental Order, 8 November 1899.

#### Appendix B

1. Great Britain. Public Record Office. ADM 201/44. Royal Marines Esquimalt. Miscellaneous Papers 1883-1895. Nominal List of RMA Detachment serving at Esquimalt, 26 February 1894.
2. Ibid. Nominal Return of RM Artillery Detachment for Esquimalt, 6 February 1894.
3. Ibid. Monthly Return of the Detachment of Royal Marines Serving at Esquimalt B.C., 1 September 1899.
4. Ibid. List of Married men serving at Esquimalt with RMA Submarine Mining Detachment, 14 March 1894.



### Appendix C

1. Great Britain. Public Record Office. ADM 201/44. Royal Marines Esquimalt. Miscellaneous papers 1883-1895. Report of the details of journey by rail from Halifax to Vancouver, B.C. made by Detachment RMA commanded by Major G.A.L. Rawstone RMA commencing 20th March 1894.
2. ~~RRM~~ 0029. Report on Esquimalt as a garrison station by Lieutenant Colonel G.A.L. Rawstone RMA after his return to England in 1897 after handing over Command. Microfilm of hand written original.

### Appendix E

1. Great Britain. Public Record Office. CAB 9 1 Part II 03023. Esquimalt. Report on Electric Lights and Quick Firing Guns. Covering letter by Rear-Admiral H.F. Stephenson 5 April 1896.

### Appendix F

1. Compiled by author from many and various sources.

### Appendix G.

1. Great Britain. Public Record Office. CAB 37 43 03036. Memorandum upon the Defence of Esquimalt 11 December 1896.

### Appendix H

1. Great Britain. Ministry of Defence Library. IE108. Report of a Conference held at the Admiralty to consider the question of responsibility for the defence of Esquimalt, 10 November 1898.

### Appendix I

1. Extracted by author from armament returns.

## Glossary

ARMY ACT.	The legal statute for the British Army.
BATTALION	A military formation consisting of a number of companies.
BATTERY	A grouping of artillery pieces. A fortification with artillery pieces. An artillery unit in the army equivalent to a company. An artillery unit complete with guns, equipment, ammunition personnel and transport.
BOMBARDIER	Rank above gunner, denoted in this period by one chevron.
BRIGADE	A military formation consisting of a variable number of units.
COMPANY	A body of soldiers. Specifically, a unit of infantry. A unit of artillery.
CORPS	An organized formation of the military establishment.
DEPRESSION RANGE FINDER	A military instrument for calculating the range of a target using the angle of depression between the instrument and the target. Specifically for use with coast artillery.
DISAPPEARING GUN/CARRIAGE	A type of artillery carriage which raises the barrel above a parapet for firing and allows the barrel to be lowered below the parapet for loading.
ELECTRIC LIGHT	Early name for searchlight. Sometimes DEFENCE ELECTRIC LIGHT.
ENGINE ROOM	Accommodation for engine(s) supplying electricity to ELECTRIC LIGHTS.
FIELD GUNS	Artillery with carriages designed to be used with field forces where mobility is important.
FIXED ELECTRIC LIGHT	An ELECTRIC LIGHT set in one direction, usually with a wide beam to illuminate an area.

FORAGE CAP	Army headdress. A peaked, stiff sided cap.
FORTRESS COMPANY ROYAL ENGINEERS	A COMPANY assigned to duties in a fortress. In a coastal fortress duties would include maintenance of the works and operation of plant and ELECTRIC LIGHTS.
FROCK (JACKET)	A particular type of uniform jacket with four external patch pockets.
GARRISON	Troops assigned to man the defences of a particular point and organized and equipped for that specific task.
GARRISON ARTILLERY	Permanently emplaced artillery. An artillery unit intended to man emplaced artillery pieces.
GROUP FIRING	The combined firing of a group of artillery pieces.
GUNNER	A soldier serving large calibre mounted firearms e.g. guns, howitzers.
HOTCHKISS GUN	A light quick-firing anti-torpedo boat gun using a brass cartridge case, fixed ammunition, a sliding block breech and having a recoil system.
LEE-ENFIELD RIFLE	A bolt action magazine rifle. The first version, Mark I, appeared in 1895 and was purchased by Canada in 1895-96. Weight 9½ lbs. Calibre .303. Sword bayonet. Ten round magazine. Leaf rear sight graduated to 2,800 yards.
MARTINI-HENRY RIFLE	A falling block, lever action rifle. The Mark III version was issued to the Victoria militia. Calibre .577/450. Triangular socket bayonet.
MAXIM MACHINE GUN	An early machine gun in British service.
MOVEABLE ELECTRIC LIGHT	An ELECTRIC LIGHT able to be traversed over an arc, usually having a narrow beam.

OLIVER PATTERN EQUIPMENT	A type of personal equipment invented by Surgeon-Major Oliver MD, of the British army in the 1870s. Issued to the Victoria militia.
QUEEN'S REGULATIONS	Regulations for the conduct of the British army.
RANGING	An artillery procedure of adjusting fire onto a target.
REGIMENT	A military unit consisting of a number of COMPANIES, sometimes organized in BATTALIONS.
REPOSITORY	The dismounting, shifting and mounting of emplaced ordnance.
SAPPER	A soldier trained in military engineering. A Royal Engineer, a soldier of the British army engineers.
SKIDDING SHED	A storage place for heavy timbers and equipment used in REPOSITORY work.
SNIDER-ENFIELD RIFLE	A breech loading rifle. Calibre .577. Triangular bayonet on long version, sword bayonet on short version.
SUBMARINE MINE	A moored underwater explosive charge designed to explode when struck by a ship's hull (contact mine) or to be fired electrically from a shore station.
SUBMARINE MINEFIELD	A pattern of SUBMARINE MINES.
SUBMARINE MINER/MINING ENGINEER	A soldier trained in the use of SUBMARINE MINES.

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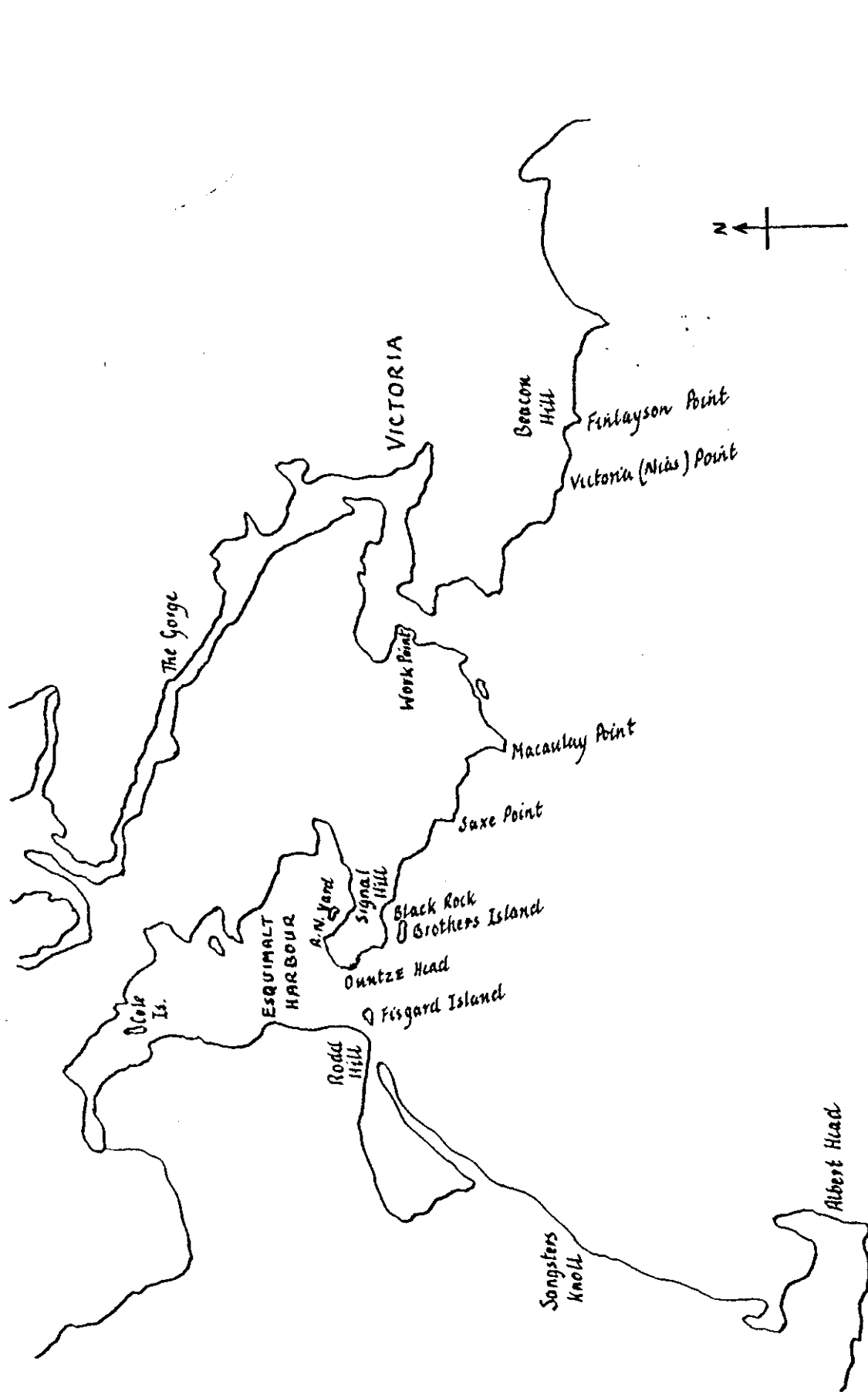
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5th (B.C.) Field Battery R.C.A. Archives

Battalion and Regimental Orders 1893-1899.

Figure 1 Sketch Map: Main Geographic Features Victoria-Esqui-  
malt Area, (Drawn by author)



Juan De Fuca Strait



Figure 2

The Royal Marine Artillery Detachment Esquimalt shortly after its assembly at Work Point Barracks, Esquimalt in 1894. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia). The four men seated in the front row are, from left to right: Colour Sergeant F.F. Porter, Lieutenant F.N. Templer, Lieutenant-Colonel G.A.L. Rawstone, Lieutenant G.E. Barnes.

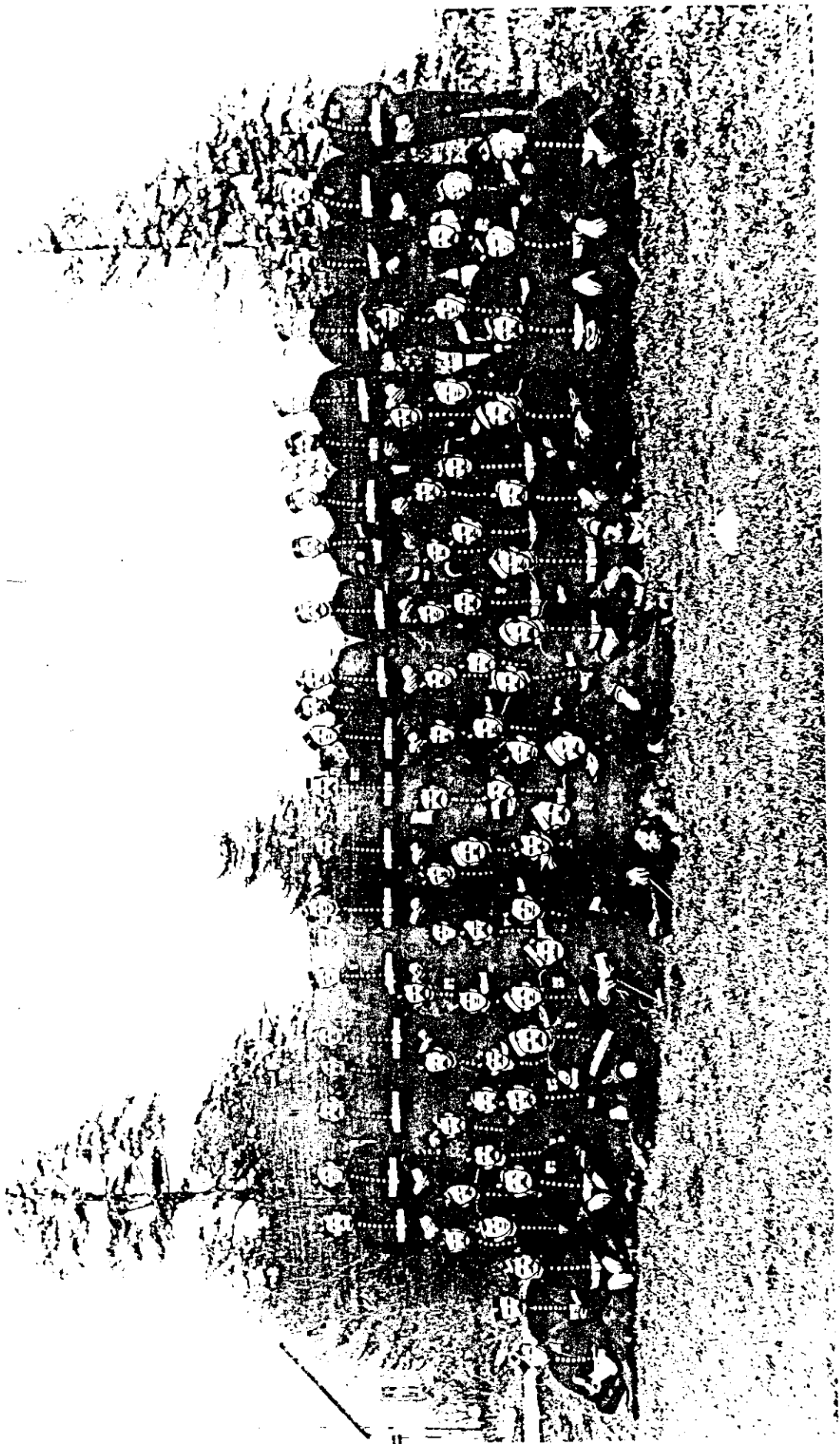


Figure 3

1

Drum and Fife Band, Royal Marine Artillery Detachment, Esquimalt C. 1896 (Fort Rodd Hill Collection). From left to right, rear rank:- Gnr Spencer, Gnr Buxton, Gnr Hatcher, Gnr Gadsby, Gnr Edwards; front rank:- Bugler Boyce, Gnr Davis, Gnr James, Cpl Harris, Bombardier Brennan, Bugler Rann. Dog named Royal.

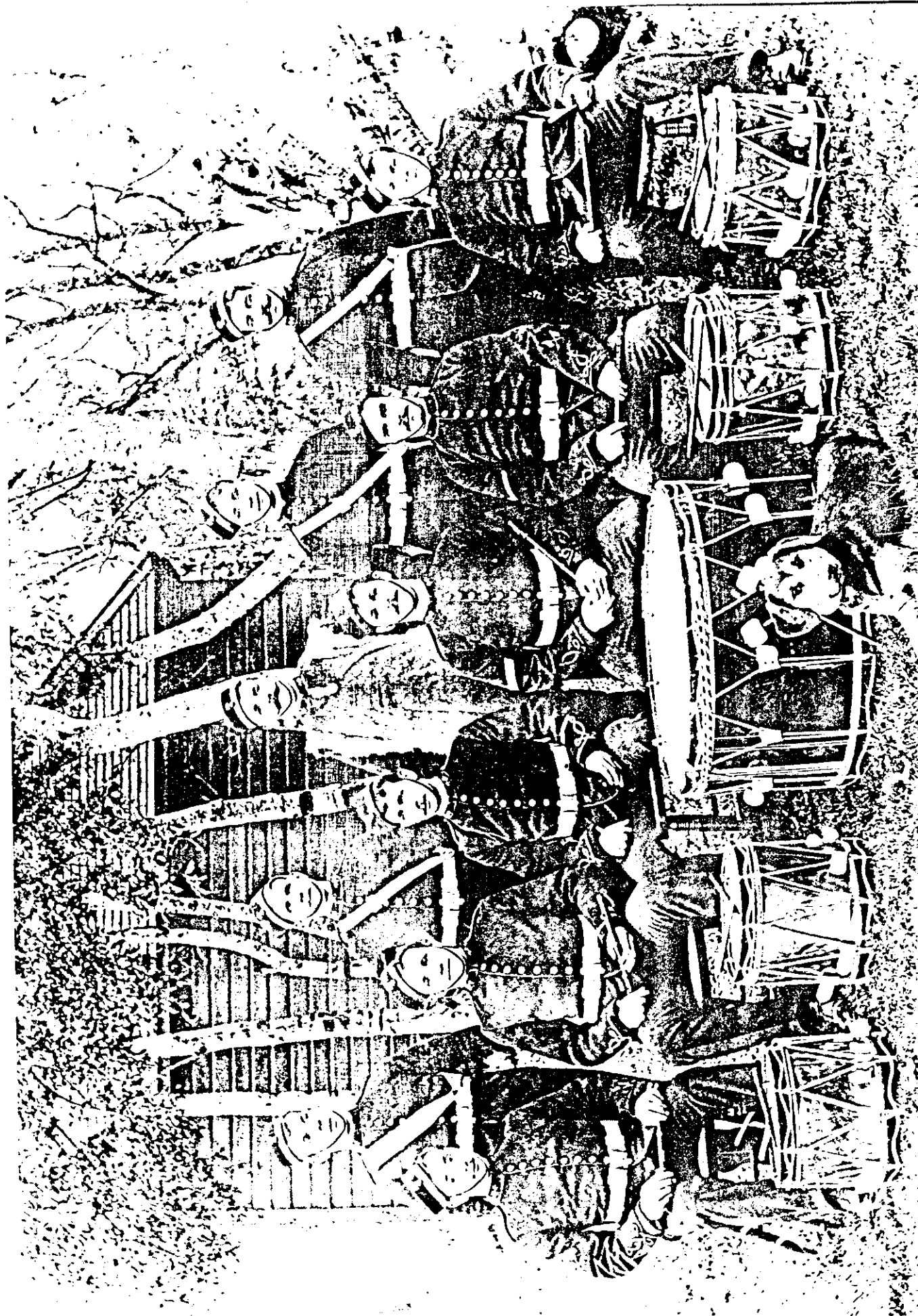


Figure 4 Lieutenant G.E. Barnes RMA, Esquimalt 1894. (Fort Rodd Hill Collection). Horse named Nellie. The sabretache inscription and insignia are: at the top a scroll inscribed "Gibraltar", lion and crown below, crossed guns and at the bottom a scroll bearing the corps motto "Per Mare Per Terram"

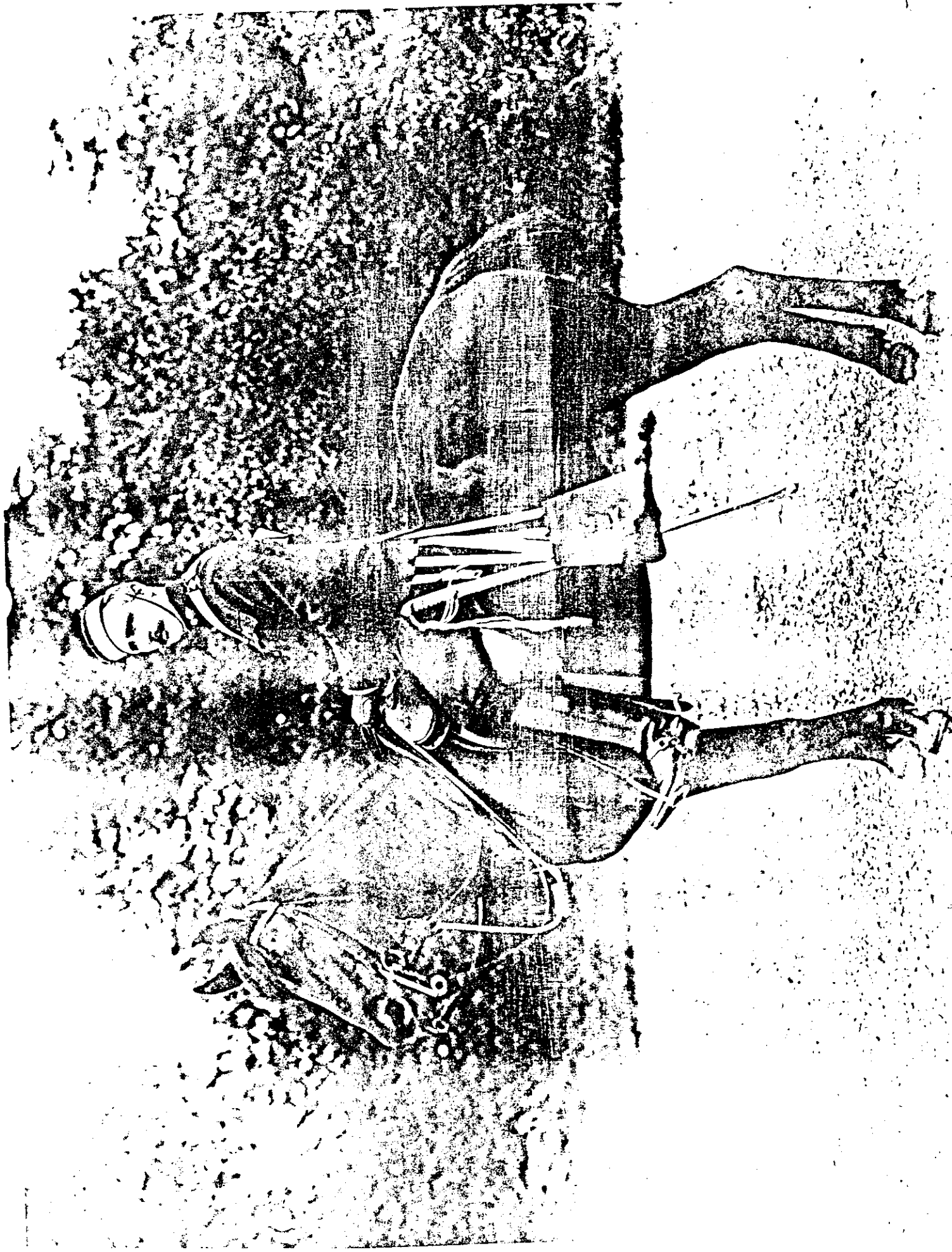


Figure 5      Royal Marine Artillery Detachment, Esquimalt,  
c.1894. Work Point Barracks entrance guard and  
guard house. (Fort Rodd Hill Collection). Guard  
in Service Marching Order, pattern 1888, Slade-  
Wallace equipment and Martini-Henry rifles, pill  
box hat carried on blanket roll.

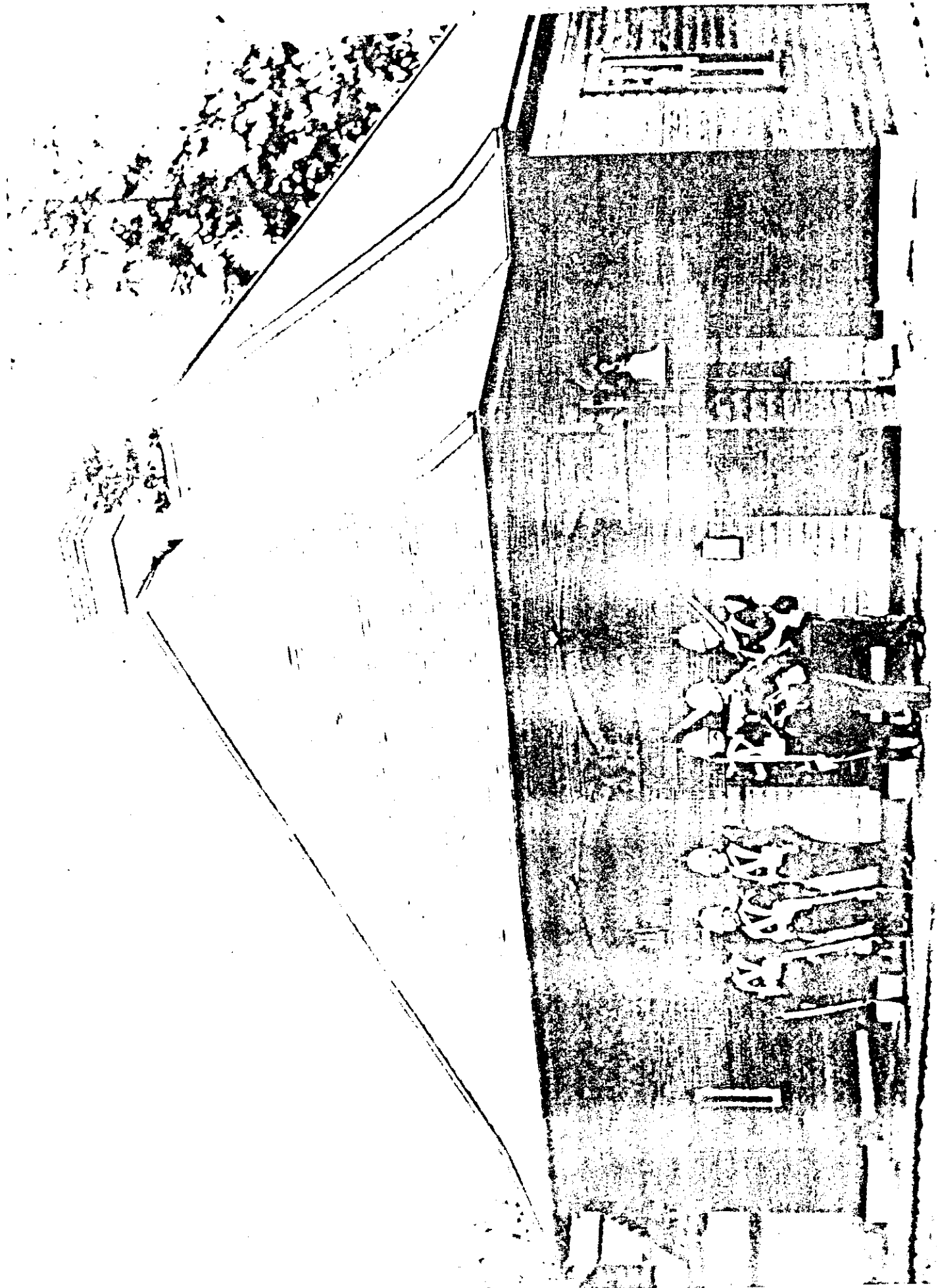




Figure 6      Royal Marine Artillery Detachment, Esquimalt,  
c.1894. Interior of hut accommodation, Work  
Point Barracks. (Fort Rodd Hill Collection).

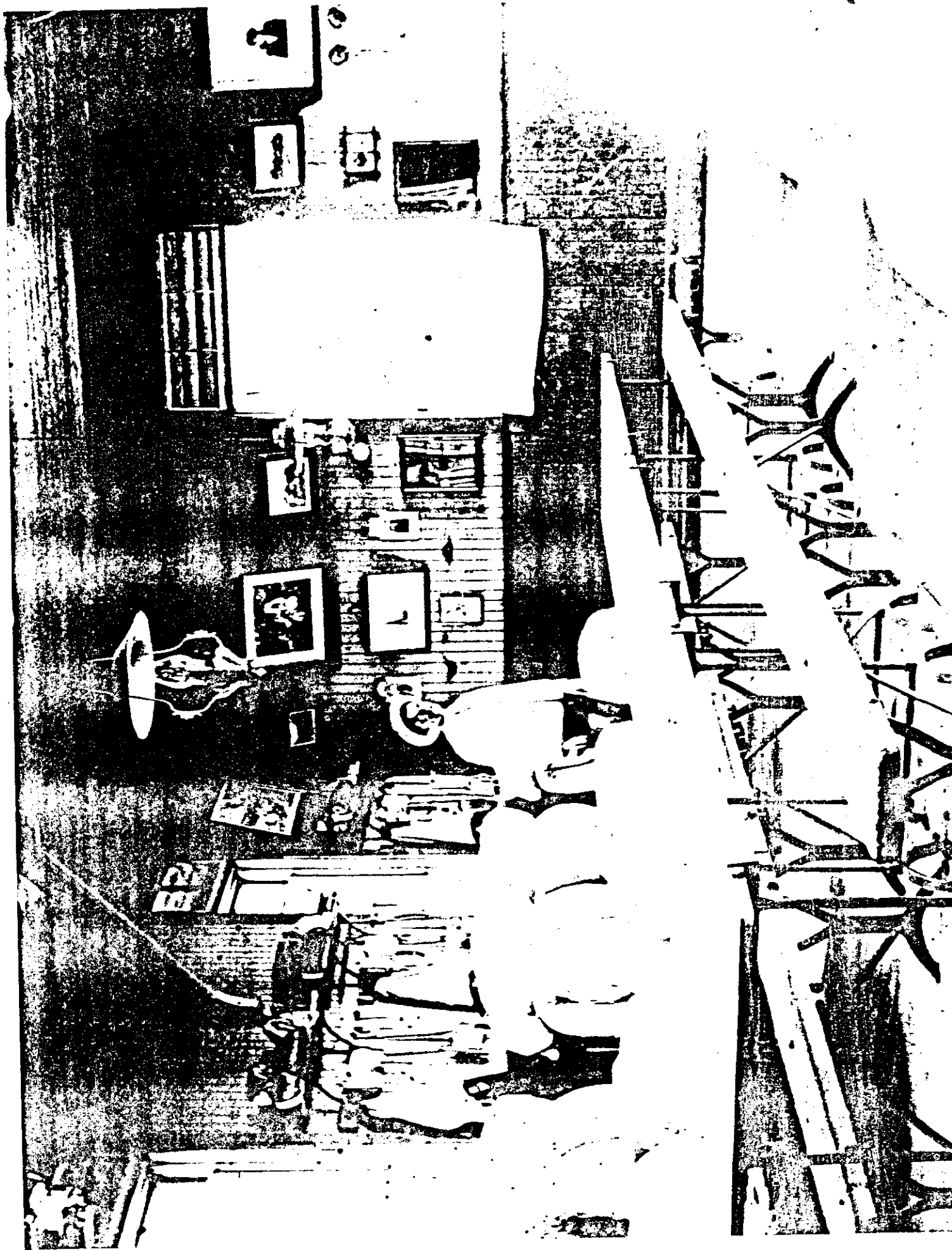
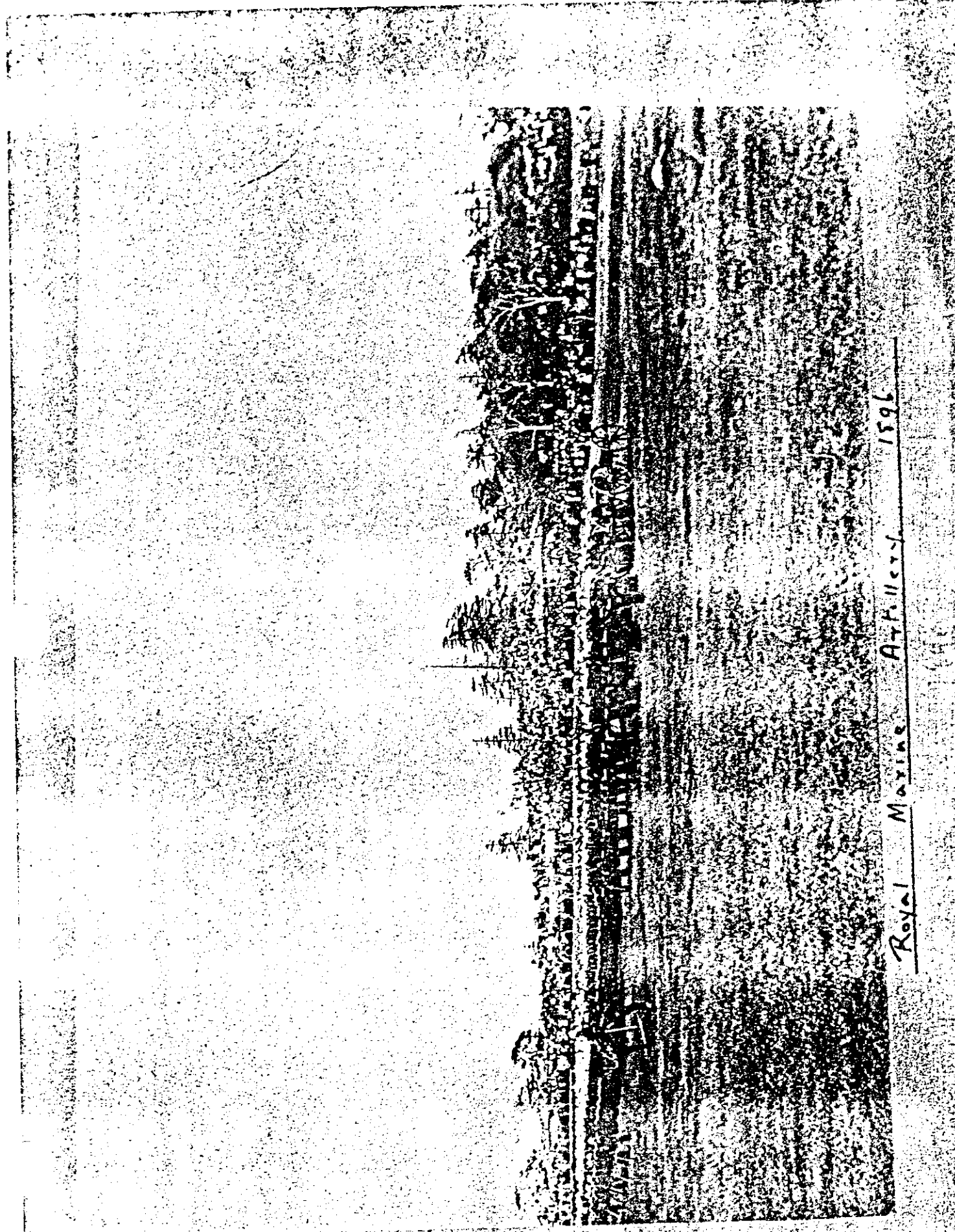


Figure 7      Royal Marine Artillery Detachment with 13-pdr  
RML guns, Macaulay Plain 1896. Probably Queen's  
birthday review. (Fort Rodd Hill Collection) .



Royal Marine Artillery 1596

Figure 8

Silver loving cup presented to Royal Marine Artillery Detachment on leaving Esquimalt, 28 September 1899. (Fort Rodd Hill Collection). The cup is 14-inches tall, exclusive of its base, and is 9 inches across. It has three handles and bears the RMA badge with the dates 1893 and 1899 to the left and right. The inscription under the badge reads: Presented to the Royal Marine Artillery by the District Officer Commanding and the Officers of 5th Regiment Canadian Artillery. Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster. British Columbia. September 1899. The cup is in the silver of the officers mess of the Royal Marine Commando Training Centre, Lympstone, Exmouth, Devon, England. (1981)



Figure 9      5th British Columbia Regiment Canadian Artillery.  
First camp on Macaulay Plain, August 1897. (Fort  
Rodd Hill Collection).

East Camp at Mckenziey - 1897

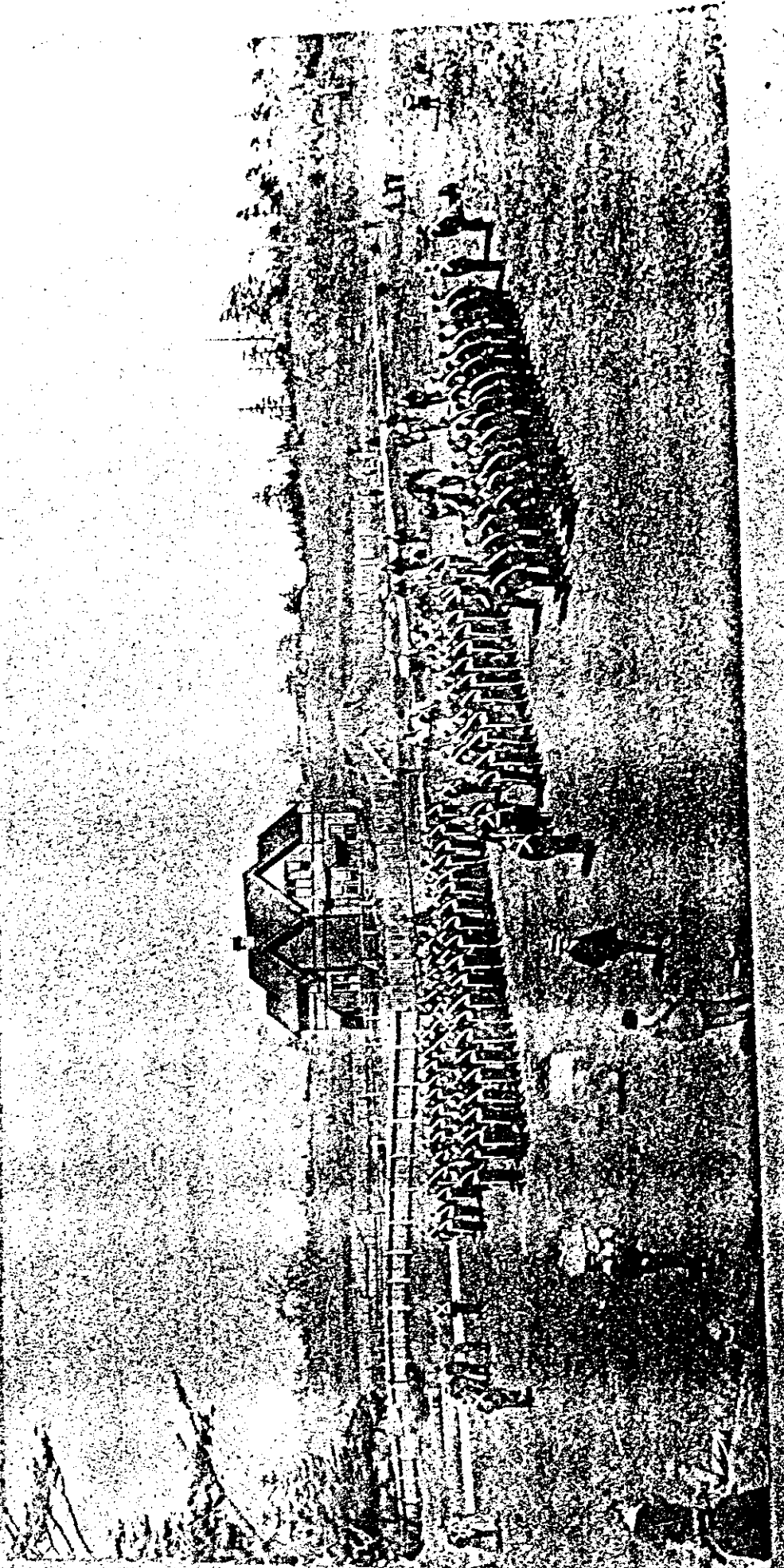




Figure 10 Militia Lineage Chart. 1864-1899. (Drawn by author).

Victoria Rifle Volunteer  
Corps  
1864

No. 1 Company of Rifles  
Victoria  
1873

Seymour Artillery  
Company  
1866

Victoria Battery  
of  
Garrison Artillery  
1878

B.C. Provisional  
Regiment of  
Garrison Artillery  
1883

Militia  
Lineage  
Chart

4 Battery    3 Battery    2 Battery    1 Battery

B.C. Brigade of  
Garrison Artillery  
1886

B.C. Battalion of  
Garrison Artillery  
1893

3 Company    2 Company    1 Company    4 Company  
Disbanded  
1894

Formed  
1894

5th BC Regiment Reformed  
Canadian Artillery  
1895

Formed  
1895

3 Company    2 Company    1 Company    4 Company    5 Company    6 Company

1 Battalion — 1896 — 2 Battalion

3 Company    2 Company    1 Company

4 Company    5 Company    6 Company

5th B.C. Regiment — 1899 — 6th Battalion of Rifles  
Canadian Artillery

6 Company    5 Company    4 Company    3 Company    2 Company    1 Company

Figure 11

Ordnance, BL, 6-inch, Mark VI on Carriage Garrison Disappearing BL, 6-inch, Mark IV. Bl gun Lower Battery, Fort Rodd Hill. (Fort Rodd Hill Collection) ■

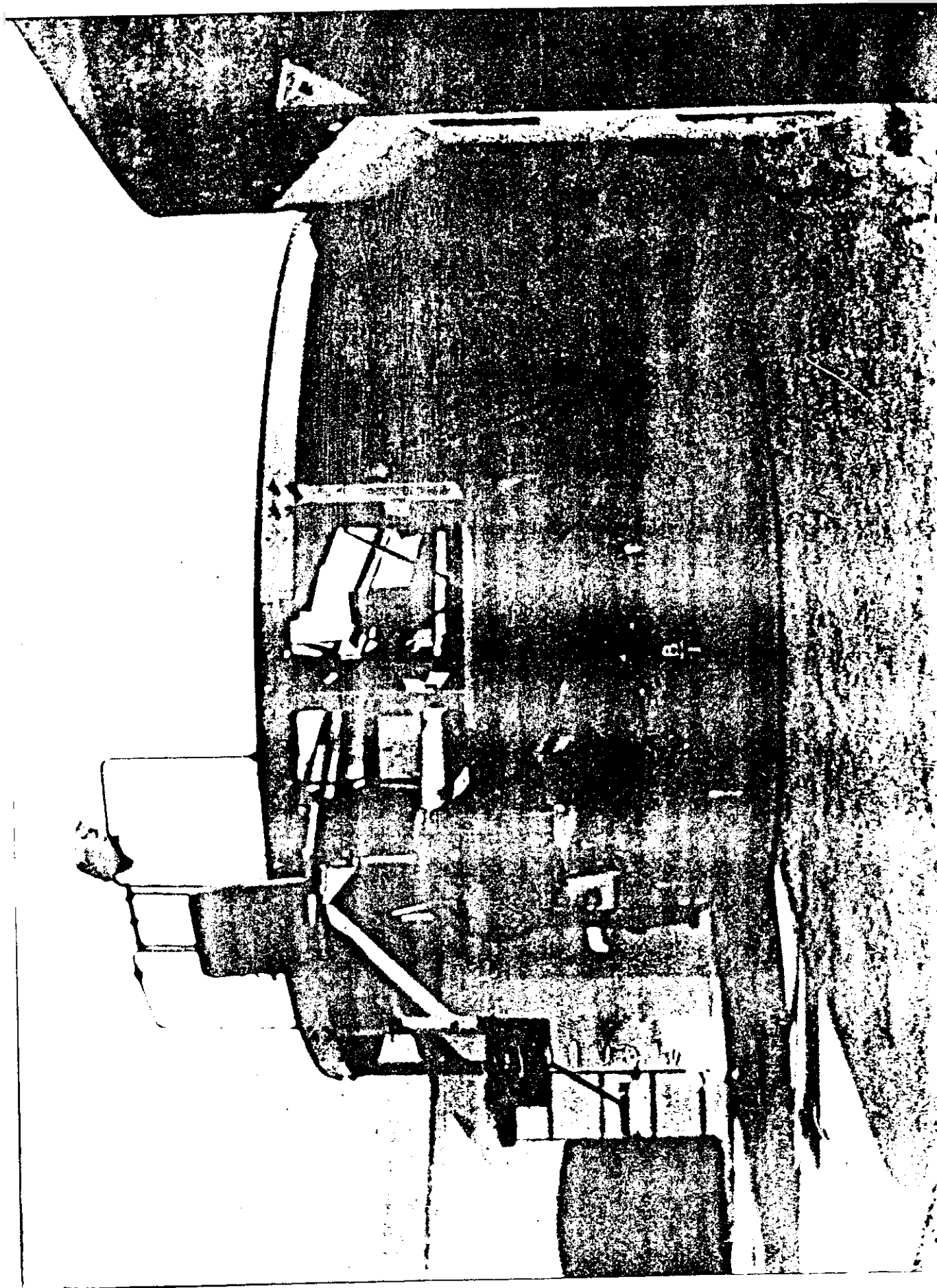


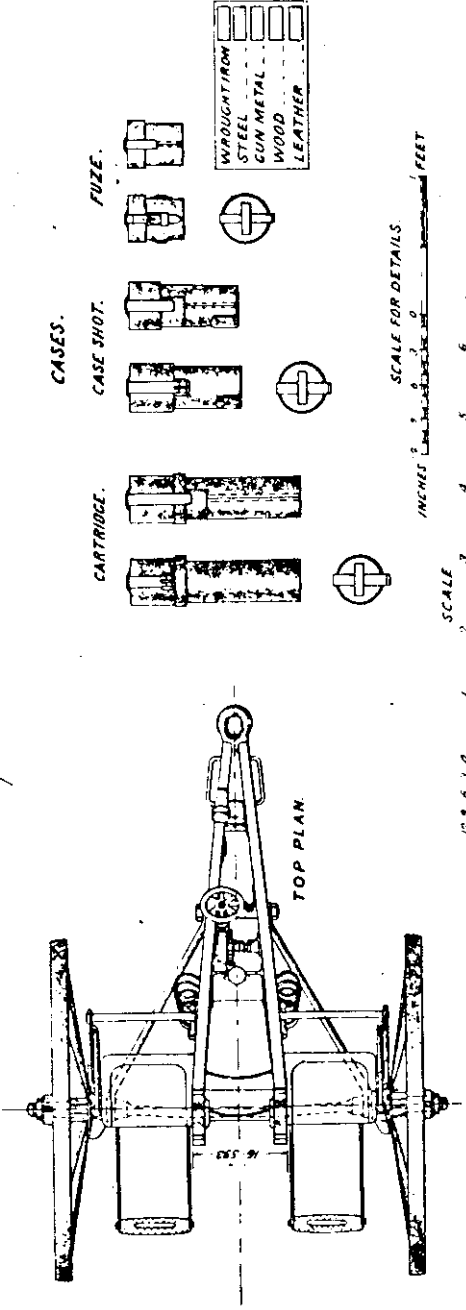
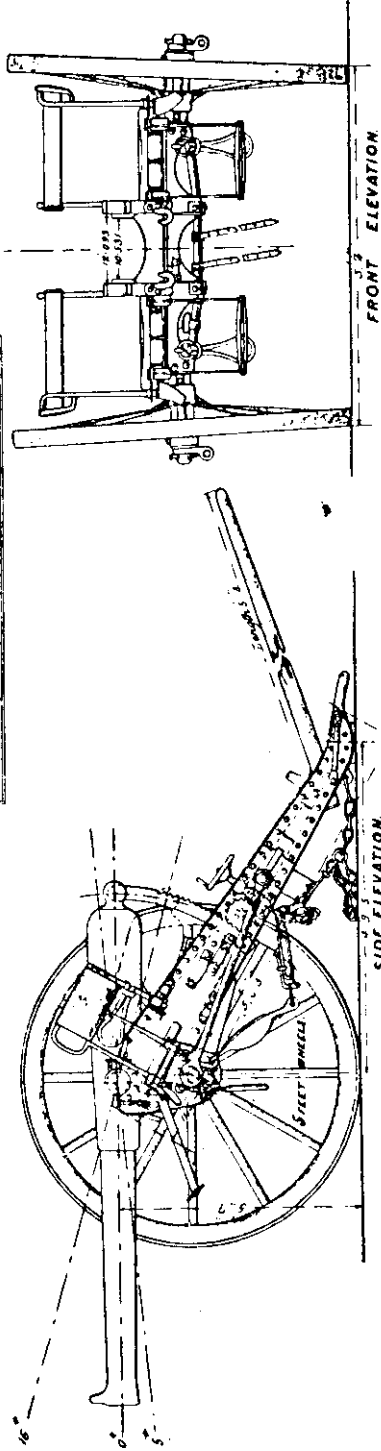
Figure 12      Royal Carriage Department specification drawing  
of 13-pdr gun of the type issued for landward  
defence of Victoria-Esquamalt. (Royal Artillery  
Institution Library, London, England).

# CARRIAGE FIELD, R.M.LJ3P MARK I

PLATE 19.

STEEL, WITHOUT LIMBER

WEIGHT	TONNAGE WITH LIMBER FOR SWIP. TRANSPORT MENT IN BOATS.	APPROVED MENT IN BOATS.	PARAGRAPH LIST OF CHANGES
CARRIAGE 11.20	4.535	9.562	6-4-08 $\frac{3}{4}$ 5325
			4.237



Prepared at the F.C.D. May 1885.

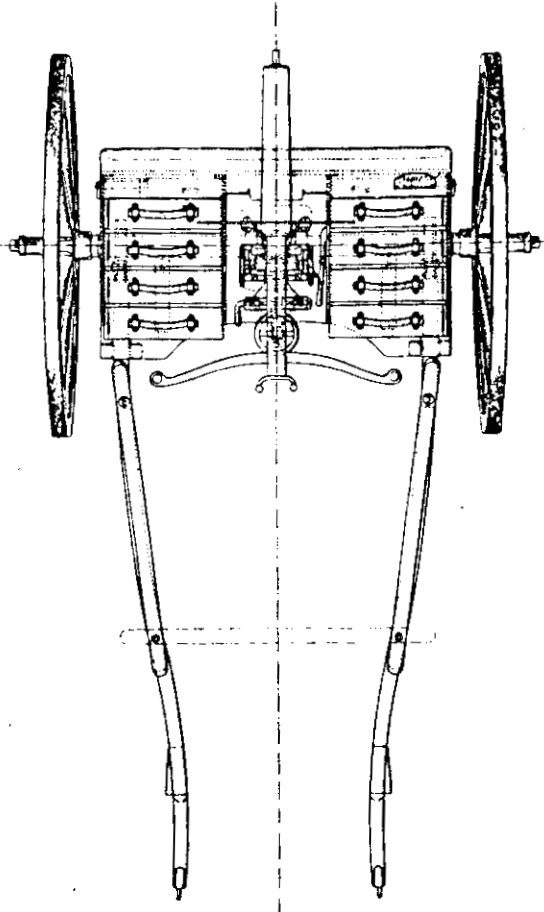
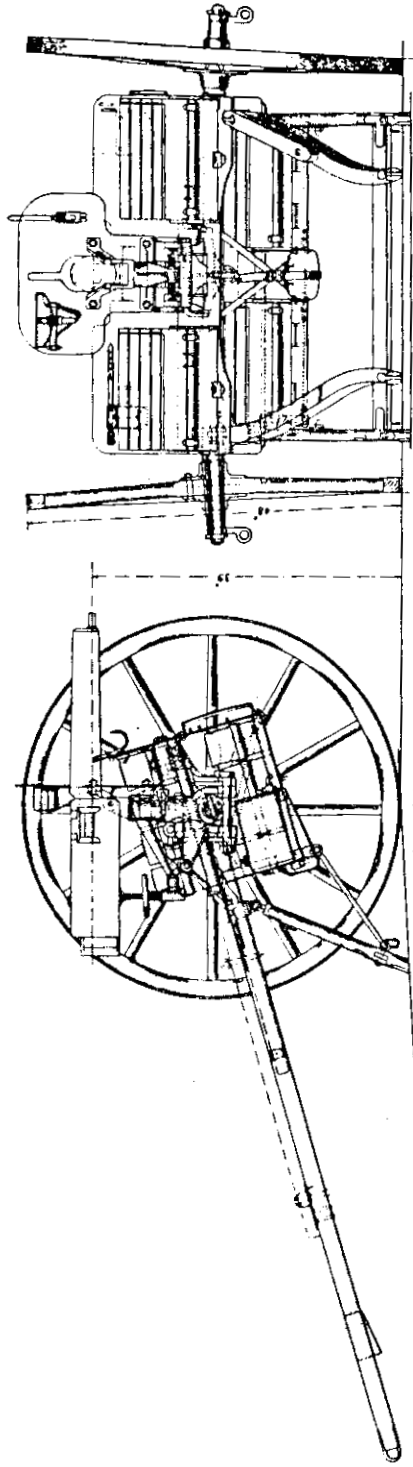
*Wm. & Co.*

Figure 13      Royal Carriage Department specification drawing  
of Maxim machine gun on a field carriage of the  
type issued for landward defence of Victoria-  
Esquimalt. (Royal Artillery Institution Library,  
London, England).

**CARRIAGE, FIELD, MACHINE GUN, INFANTRY. MAXIM. MARK I. L.**

303<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" AND 45<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" GUNS: STEEL, WITH TWO TIN BOXES, TWO LEATHER POCKETS,  
ONE WATER CAN AND ONE LEATHER COVER.

R.C.D.  
PLATE 221.



WEIGHT APPROVED.	PARAGRAPH "LIST OF CHANGES."
CWT. 89. 1/2	71
CARRIAGE. 5 2 - 10 26-6-89. 1	71 & 2.
	260

- WROUGHT IRON.....
- STEEL.....
- BRASS.....
- WOOD.....
- LEATHER.....

TOP PLAN.  
SCALE.  
INCHES

*G. S. Clarke.*  
SUPERINTENDENT, R.C.D.

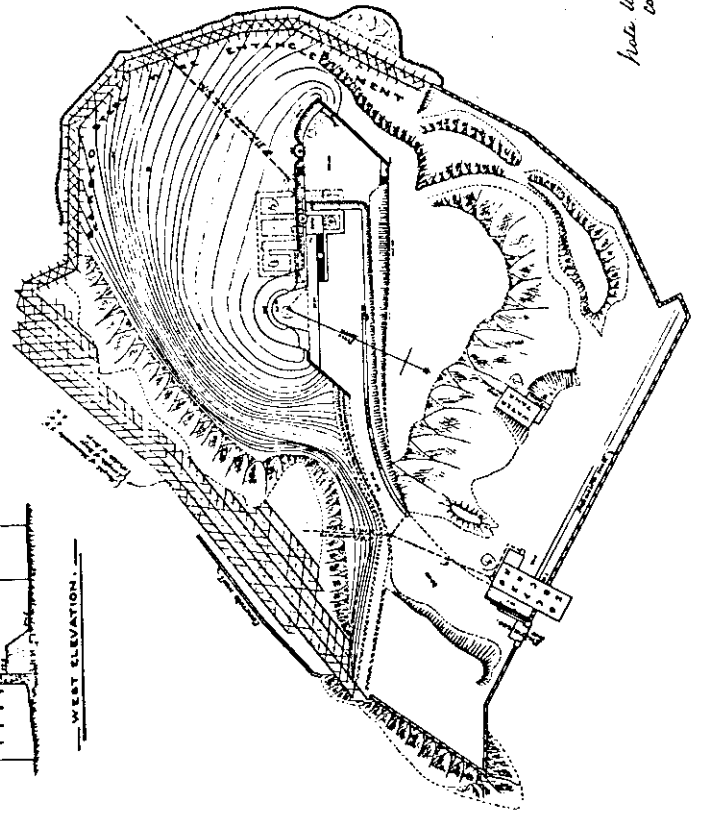
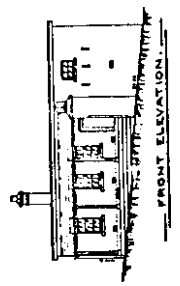
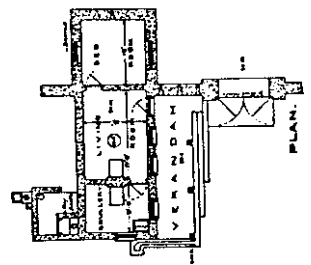
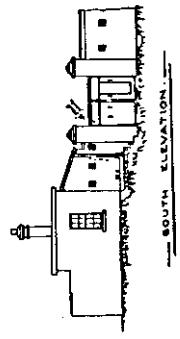
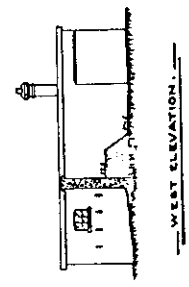


Figure 14      Upper Battery, Fort Rodd Hill, Record Plan, January 1903. (Public Record Office, England) ■

VICTORIA, B.C. ESQUIMALT DISTRICT. —  
 ROSS HILL, UPPER OR ONE GUN BATTERY. — RECORD PLANS OF —  
 EMPLACEMENT FOR ONE 9 INCH B.L. GUN ON H.P. DISAPPEARING CARRIAGE. —  
 GUN MARK VICARRIAGE MAR K IV.

DETAILS OF GUARD HOUSE, AND GENERAL SURFACE PLAN. —  
 DETAILS 10 FEET TO ONE INCH (R.F. 1/10) —  
 SURFACE PLAN 30 FEET TO ONE INCH (R.F. 1/300).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMENCEMENT OF WORK. Signed 22-4-95.  
 DATE OF COMMENCEMENT ..... Dn ..... 6-8-95 /  
 DATE OF COMPLETION ..... Dn ..... 31-3-98 /  
 ESTIMATED COST ..... £5508 /  
 ACTUAL COST ..... £3465.



Note lines of 11.500  
 on same scale -

A. Grant

Lt Colonel. —  
 O.C. Esquimalt. —  
 25th December 1902

Figure 15      Lower Battery, Fort Rodd Hill. Record Plan, January 1903. (Public Record Office, England).

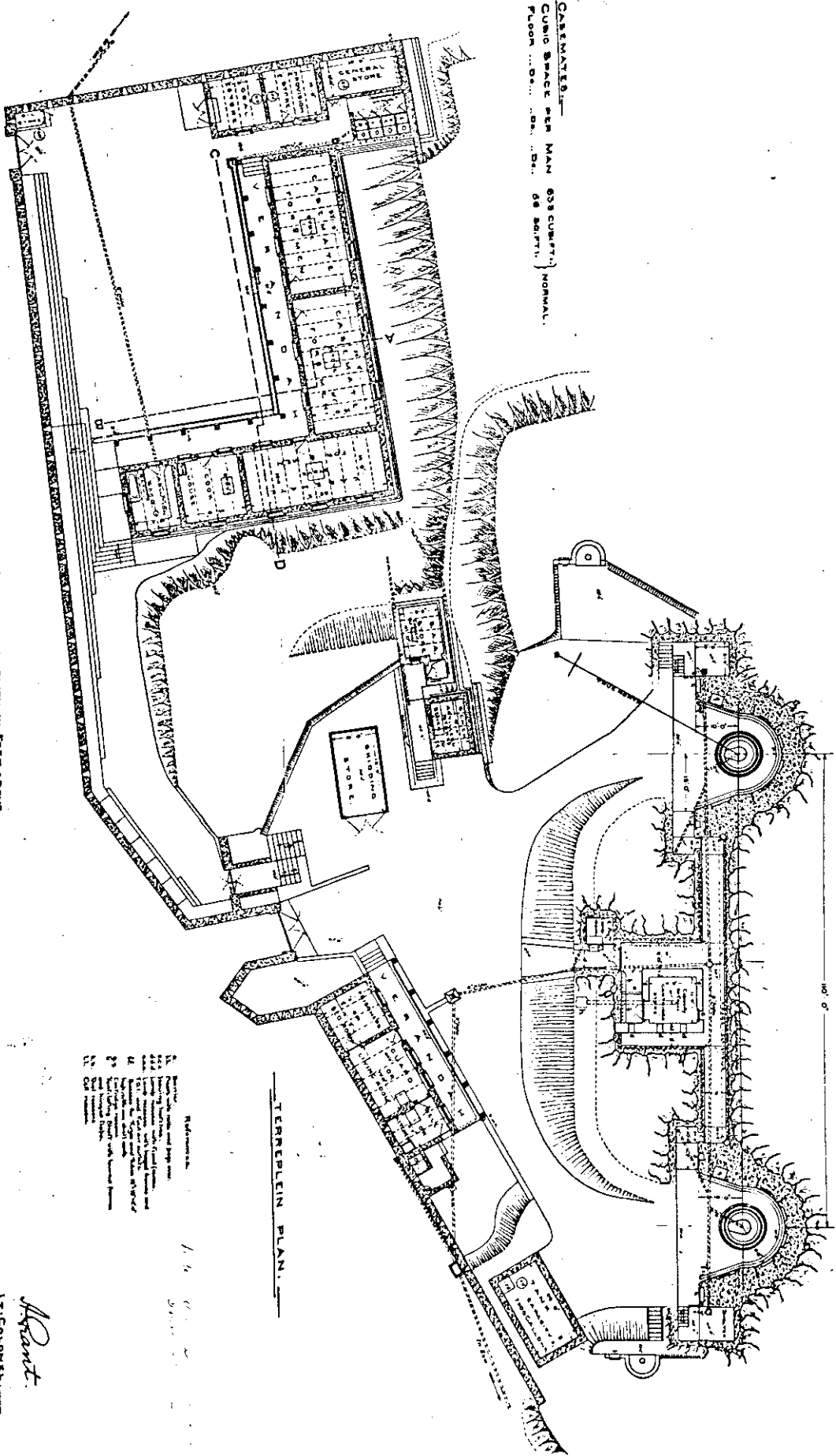
VICTORIA, B.C., ESQUIMALT DISTRICT. — RECORD PLANS OF —

ROD HILL, LOWER OR TWO GUN BATTERY. — RECORD PLANS OF —

EMPLACEMENT FOR TWO 6 INCH GUNS OR H.P. DISAPPEARING CARRIAGES.

Scale 10 FEET TO ONE INCH (R.F.M.)

DRAWING N° 3 (OF IV).



CASEMATES —  
 CURIO SPACE PER MAN 625 CUBIC FT. } NORMAL.  
 FLOOR... 22... 23... 24... } NORMAL.

NOTE: IN VIEW OF THE ACCOMMODATION OF EACH CASEMATE  
 CAN BE INCREASED, BY MEANS OF UNDERMOUNTS TO 26 MEN WITH  
 STOVE, 16 MEN WINDMILL.

ALL ALTITUDES ARE GIVEN IN FEET ABOVE  
 M.S.L. AT ESQUIMALT, B.C.

TERREPLEIN PLAN.

- Reference.
- 1. General Notes and Reports.
  - 2. Plans of the Battery.
  - 3. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 4. Plans of the Bridge Store.
  - 5. Plans of the General Store.
  - 6. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 7. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 8. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 9. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 10. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 11. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 12. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 13. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 14. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 15. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 16. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 17. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 18. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 19. Plans of the Gun Pits.
  - 20. Plans of the Gun Pits.

*Wright*  
 LT COLONEL,  
 O.C. R.E. ESQUIMALT,  
 31<sup>st</sup> January 1903.

DESIGNED BY  
 LT COLONEL,  
 R.E. ESQUIMALT 1893.

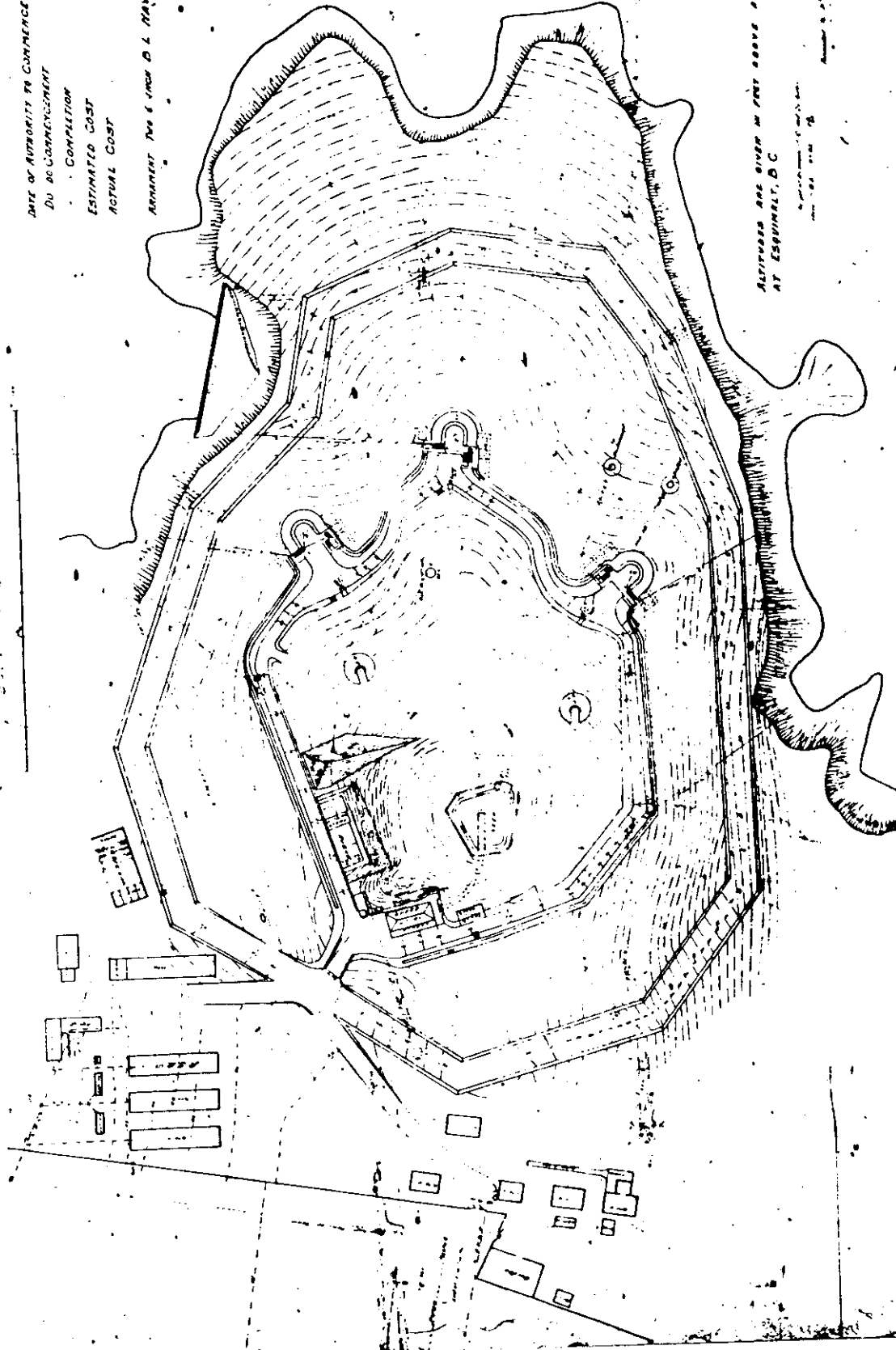
Figure 16

Macaulay Point Battery. Surface Plan, c.1929. (Fort Rodd Hill Collection). The buildings outside the protection ditch were added after the British garrison period. The reference to two 6-inch BL Naval Guns is to an armament amendment in the 1920s. Much of the original work remains today-1982.

VICTORIA & C. ESQUIMALT DISTRICT  
 MACAULAY POINT BATTERY  
 SURFACE PLAN.

DATE OF AUTHORITY TO COMMENCE 17-10-04  
 DO SO COMMENCEMENT 28-1-04  
 COMPLETION 30-11-04  
 ESTIMATED COST £1,000,000  
 ACTUAL COST £1,000,000

APPROVED FOR THE GOVERNMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE



01582

ALTITUDES ARE GIVEN IN FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL UNLESS  
 OTHERWISE STATED AT ESQUIMALT, B.C.

MAJOR R.C.E. 11  
 1904

Figure 17      Army Ordnance and Submarine Mining establishments, Signal Hill, Esquimalt. Record Plan, May 1905. (Public Record Office, England.)

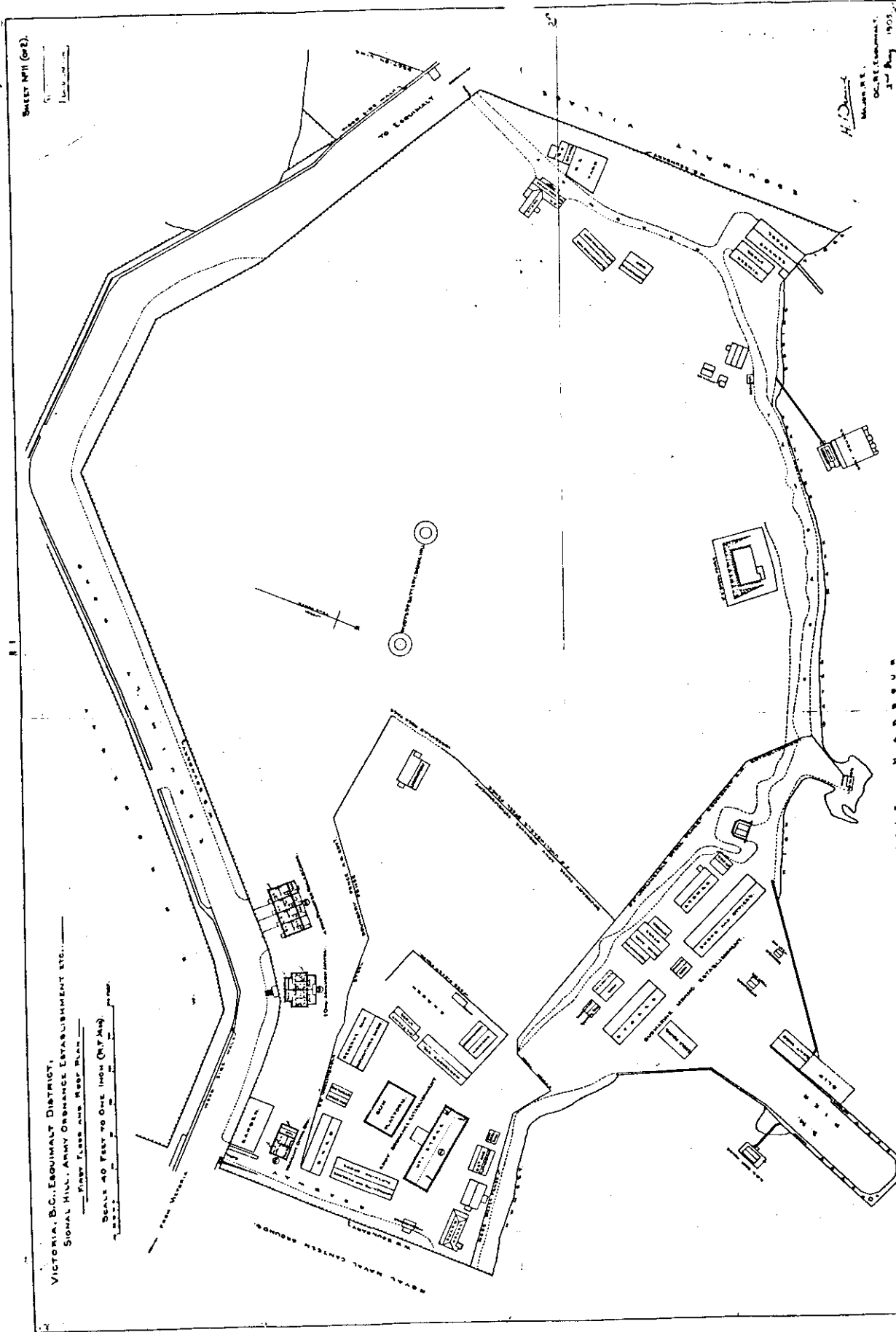
SHEET No. 11 (of 2).

Scale  
1 inch = 100 feet

H. D. ...  
MAY 1905  
O.C. ...

VICTORIA, B.C., EQUIPMENT DISTRICT,  
SIGNAL HILL, ARMY ORDNANCE ESTABLISHMENT ETC.

— Fire Place and Rear Blank  
— Scale 40 Feet to One Inch (N.P.M.S.)



BOUNDARY OF THE CAMP

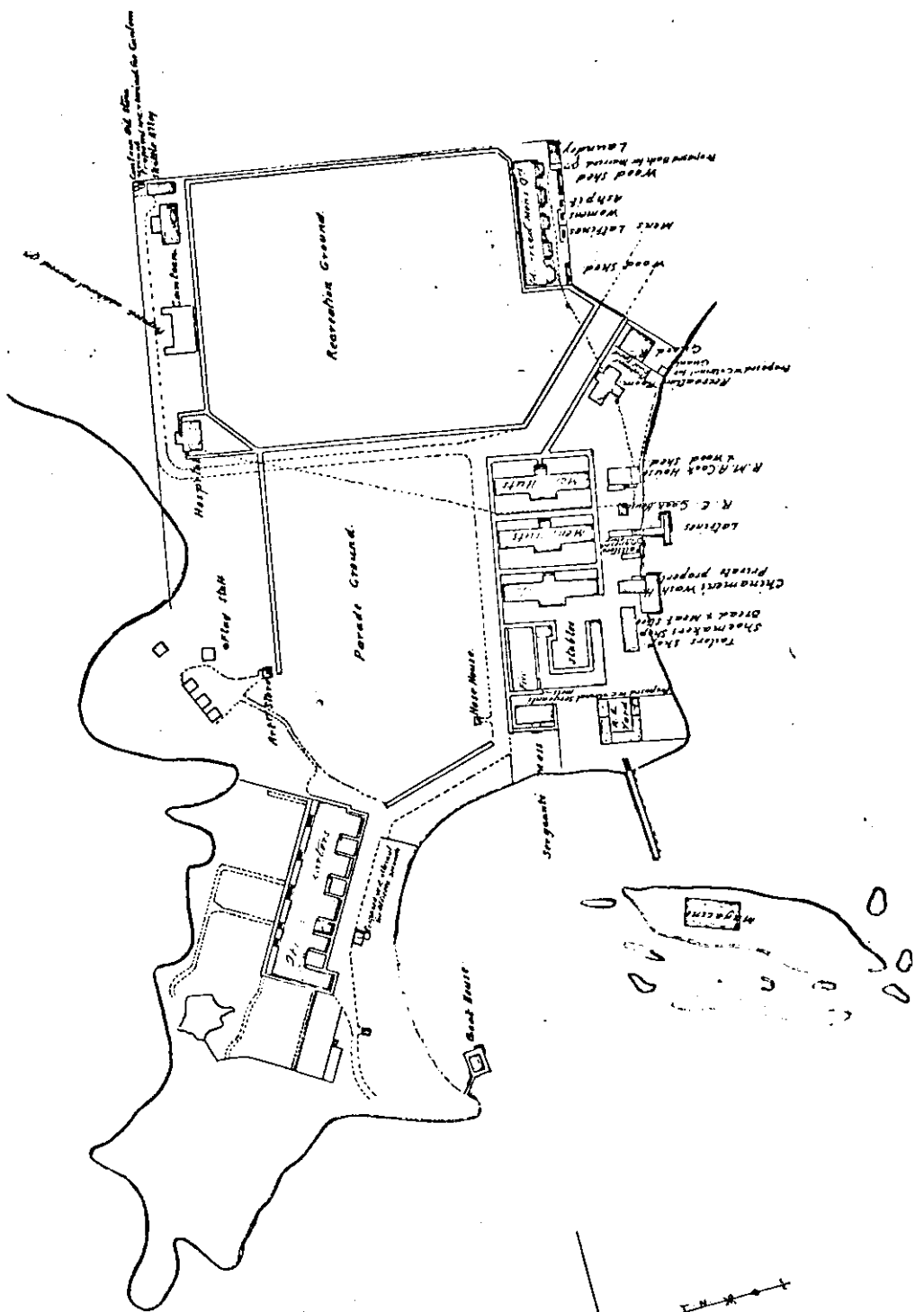


Figure 18

Work Point Barracks. Surface Plan 1895 (Public Record Office, England). The following are later additions: Chinamen's wash house private Property, Proposed WC and urinal for Guard, Proposed bath for Married Quarters, Proposed WC and urinal for Sergeants Mess, Proposed WC and urinal for Officers Servants. It is not known if they were completed before the major rebuilding programme began in 1899.

# ESQUIMALT DISTRIOT VICTORIA B C WORK POINT BARRACKS SURFACE PLAN

*Copy of Tracing  
from E.O.C. dated  
20-11-95  
with F.A.E.*



23691  
NO 78/3444  
ESQUIMALT DISTRICT OFFICE