

Sir Arthur Currie

Arthur William Currie was born in Strathroy, Ontario. As a young man he moved to Victoria, British Columbia and entered private business as an insurance agent and real estate broker.

At the urging of a friend, he joined the 5th (British Columbia) Regiment, Canadian Garrison Artillery in 1897 and quickly became a dedicated, technically skilled and enthusiastic member, rising to command the Regiment in 1908.

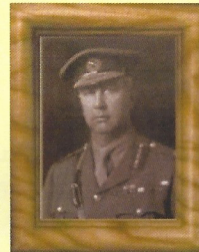


As an artilleryman Currie rose quickly through the ranks due to his skill and aptitude. Currie took advantage of there being a school of artillery close at hand and completed every course offered, normally topping the course. His skill in gunnery matters was evident in his bringing his Company and in due course the Regiment to exceptional levels of achievement. Over the period 1907 to 1913, the 5th Regiment won every Dominion trophy available for competition in Canada and several competitions at an international level. The 5th Regiment, with Currie leading, were noted to be "the best gunnery corps in the Dominion."

Currie was very proficient as a tactician as well. Notably, while he commanded the 5th Regiment, he employed these skills in dealing with a miners strike and rioting in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island by deceiving the protestors as to the Regiment's route of advance. Rather than taking the railroad to the site he sent only a decoy force by rail and sent the bulk of the unit by steam ship, permitting them to arrive from the protestors' rear having already secured the town of Nanaimo from their continued rioting. He further proved his proficiency in tactics on the militia staff course achieving the highest marks. He was known to be a principled and straight talking officer and these attributes resulted in admiration from all who dealt with him. The technical skills and tactical knowledge he developed while in the 5th Regiment placed him in good situation to advance

as a commander. His skills along with those of gunner and engineer commanders and peers permitted him to achieve great successes in WWI, playing a pivotal role in the battle of Vimy Ridge and rising to command the Canadian Corps. This last mentioned battle is said to be where Canada became a nation won with the planning preparations and tactics of the Canadians who fought there. Currie was knighted by H.M. King George V in 1917 and was honoured by the Governments of France, Belgium and the United States. Following the First War, Sir Arthur Currie became the President and Vice Chancellor of McGill University, and he is credited with instituting the post war expansion of McGill campus and preserving its programs during the Depression. Sir Arthur Currie died in Montreal on November 30th, 1933 after a brief illness.

General Currie returned to service with the 5th Regiment as Honorary Colonel from 1919-1933.



5th (British Columbia) Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery Museum and Archives

Bay Street Armoury
Victoria, BC



Our Mission :

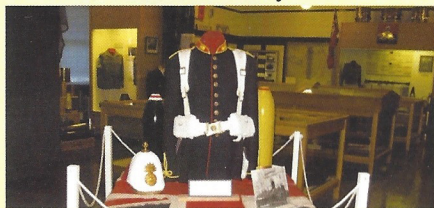
To collect, preserve and display history pertaining to the 5th (British Columbia) Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery; its antecedent and descendant units; and to interpret these set in the context of the coastal defence of British Columbia and the Pacific North-West of the U.S.A.

The Museum and Archives of the 5th (British Columbia) Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery

About the Museum

The museum of the 5th Regiment was opened on November 9 1996. It was the culmination of many decades of dedicated effort to collect, collate and verify archival material and artefacts donated to the Regiment.

The 5th (BC) Regiment is a descendant of the 5th (BC) Regiment Canadian Garrison Artillery. The museum displays follow the development of coast artillery and associated units from 1861 to the field artillery unit of today.



The Regiment's contribution to the defence of Victoria & the West Coast are highlighted. As well artefacts of members of the unit that went to the South African Boer War are displayed.

Working displays of current field artillery systems that are unique in Canada are available for viewing.

The collection includes rarely seen artillery survey equipment, vintage cannon and many artefacts only found in this museum.

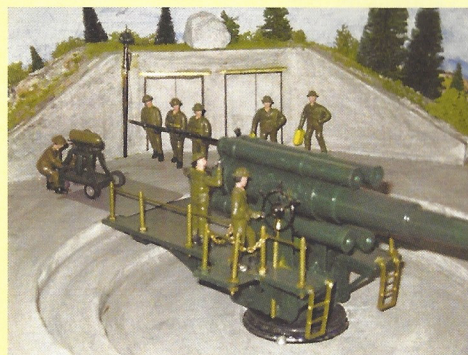
The museum staff are knowledgeable volunteers; entry to the museum is by donation which are gratefully appreciated.

The hours of operation are:

- Tuesday nights 7:00pm to 9:00pm;
- For a visit outside normal hours please call the Regimental Adjutant (250) 363-8270 or orderly room (250) 363-3626.

Web Site

<http://www.5RCAmuseum.ca>



**A Canadian Forces Museum supported by
the Canadian Forces Directorate of
History and Heritage**



Where to Find Us

The museum is located on the mezzanine level, Room 305, of the Bay Street Armoury at 715 Bay Street in Victoria BC. There is an elevator to the museum level as well as wheelchair access to the displays.

Public access is from Field Street using the military parking area at end of Field Street

Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site

Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site is a restored Coastal Artillery Fortification with a close connection to the 5th Regiment. Originally constructed in 1897 by the British government, ownership was transferred to Canada in 1906. In 1914 and 1939, the 5th Regiment was mobilized to man the Coast Defences for Victoria and Esquimalt Harbours, including the Guns at Fort Rodd. See this link.

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-hs/bc/fortroddhill/index.aspx>

