

# 78 Years of Active Service

**In 1878** the original Victoria - Esquimalt Coast Defence Fortification System was made up of four batteries that protected the entrance to Victoria and Esquimalt. They included Fort Macaulay, Finlayson Point, Victoria Point, and Brother's Island.



**The Coastal Defence** Fortification System evolved locally by adding numerous artillery batteries and searchlight sites from Church Hill (near Sooke) to Gonzales Hill (in Oak Bay), including Fort Rodd Hill and eventually right up the west coast. Coastal defences protected the west coast until after the second world war.



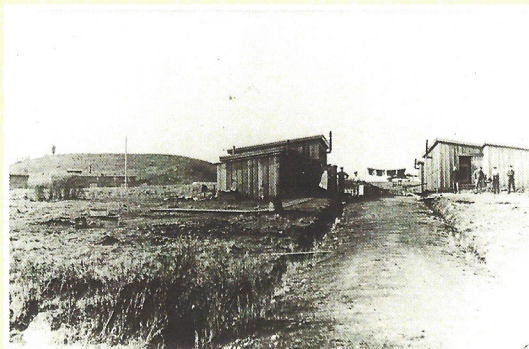
Fort Macaulay was the longest serving component of the Victoria-Esquimalt Coast Defence Fortification System, being continuously manned from 1878 until being declared obsolete in 1956. This photo below shows the BC Brigade of the Garrison Artillery circa 1886.

**A three-gun** temporary earthworks and wooden platform battery was erected at this location in 1878 in response to the British - Russian crisis in the Balkans. The original 1878 battery was constructed on the shoreline of Macaulay Point to protect Victoria and Esquimalt harbours and was manned by local militia units and "C" Battery - Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

Fort Macaulay was in active use from 1878 through 1956. It was a coastal defence battery and also used for military training. The soldiers from the 5th BC Regiment Canadian Artillery at right are training on the Maxim Machine gun in 1895.



Fort Macaulay is unique in that it retained its original character within Work Point Barracks until it became an integral part of Esquimalt's Macaulay Point Park. The Township has leased the land for the park from the Department of National Defence since 1985. In 2013 Fort Macaulay was placed on the Township of Esquimalt's Heritage List.



Remnants of some of the old buildings are located around Macaulay Point Park. Use the map in this brochure to guide your walk back in time.

For more information about historic Fort Macaulay visit the Esquimalt Municipal Archives located at 1149A Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, BC, or visit us online at [esquimalt.ca/archives](http://esquimalt.ca/archives)

For more information on Esquimalt Parks, visit [esquimalt.ca/parks](http://esquimalt.ca/parks)

Also visit [workpoint.opcmh.ca](http://workpoint.opcmh.ca) for historic information on Fort Macaulay.

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ESQUIMALT

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# Welcome to Historic Fort Macaulay



## 1878 to 1956

Fort Macaulay was the longest serving component of the Victoria-Esquimalt Coast Defence Fortification System.

Take a step back in time as you explore the history and beauty of Fort Macaulay