

January 17, 2024

Kate Heikkila, Archivist  
Royal B. C. Museum  
675 Belleville Street  
Victoria, B. C.  
V8W 9W2

Dear Kate:

**Re: B. C. Archives' Photos A-05579 & A-06236 = Both Ends Of The Same Esquimalt Church Parade**

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Please find enclosed my latest work correcting the historical record for a story that took place more than a hundred years ago on Esquimalt Road when the troops marched to church to attend to a farewell celebration in honour of their volunteering to fight in the Great War of 1914-1918.

On the back of photo A-05579 (the lead photograph) the donor states that the picture represents an Esquimalt "church parade" while the donor of photo A-06236 says that the photograph represents the commencement of "a day's manoeuvre" from Dockyard to points east like Gordon Head or Mt. Tolmie and back to camp again. The short answer to this dilemma is that this single event march is a **church parade** principally involving the 88<sup>th</sup> Victoria Fusiliers and the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, C.G.A. with the officers and ratings of H.M.C.S. Rainbow and naval volunteers bringing up the rear in the second photograph.

**Both images were snapped by the same unknown photographer perhaps two minutes apart from each other and both ended up in the B. C. Archives from different donors at different times.**

And just where and when were the soldiers and sailors headed in order to attend divine worship and prayer? – St. Paul's Naval and Garrison Church on Esquimalt Road on Sunday, August 23, 1914 around 9:25 a.m.

As it turned out, this particular Sunday was the last opportunity to attend regimental prayer before embarkation to Valcartier, Quebec to fight for the British Empire and its allies in what we sardonically refer to today as *the war to end all wars* (reference attached **Schedule of Events**). War was imminent and those preparing to fight overseas knew it! It is recorded in the Anglican Church's **Vestry Record of Services** that 91 men made their communion with God that day coming a close second in number only to the number of Easter morning communicants recorded earlier that year in the same book.

On the August 23<sup>rd</sup> page of **The Record** it is also recorded that this 1914 service was a "Valedictory Service for the 88<sup>th</sup> Fusiliers & 5<sup>th</sup> Regiments @ 9:45 a.m.; the H.M.C.S. Rainbow & naval volunteers @ 10:45 a.m." by means of a separate parade service. Also, it is written that "the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment left for the front with 70 men on August 26<sup>th</sup>" and that it was "the intention of the 50<sup>th</sup> Gordon Highlanders and the 88<sup>th</sup> Victoria Fusiliers to go to the front @ 10:30 a.m." on the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month (reference attached steamship photos).

**It is important to note that the military and naval units as viewed in the photographs are recorded in the church's Record of Services in the same parade order.**

Other **1914** circumstantial evidence includes the re-introduction of white covers on 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment forage caps in **April** (notice the regiment's brass band marching behind the lead band), the Fusiliers' fife and drum band (the lead band) having become strong enough to parade with other regiments by **May** and the 88<sup>th</sup> Fusiliers as a whole now mobilized for war and camped at Dockyard in Esquimalt in early **August** of that same year.

During the Great War church services were constantly held in diverse places for naval and military personnel living in the naval port and garrison town of Victoria. Because they were a dime a dozen, church parades were usually not given detailed coverage by our local dailies so a review of church records was imperative to establish the church parade angle. In this case, the photographs and church records together turned a strictly circumstantial case into a church parade certainty! Newspaper coverage of this particular parade was spotty but the Victoria Daily Times was extremely helpful with background material. More could be proffered but I've given you the salient points and a wealth of enclosures for your perusal.

**This set of extraordinary photos comprise an uncommon *mixed service* church parade from the build up to war (1912) to the end of it (1918) inclusive.**

A few years ago I requested changes to two on-line image descriptions located on the B. C. Archives' website and you agreed to make those changes based on your satisfaction with my research:

Item F-08469 (Duke Of Connaught Reviewing Volunteers At Esquimalt)  
Item I-61535 (Men From His Majesty's Ships Landed To Celebrate The King's Birthday)

With this last full measure of archival satisfaction under my belt I'm now retiring from the rigors of sleuthing. I've enjoyed meeting the challenge of the pursuit but it's time to move on to explore other avenues of interest. However, I still look forward to hearing from you **one last time** regarding today's subject matter.

Yours truly,



Gary T. Restell  
#503 – 450 Dallas Road  
Victoria, B. C.  
V8V 1B1

E-MAIL: [gary.restell@shaw.ca](mailto:gary.restell@shaw.ca)

Enclosures:

B. C. Archives Collection Search – Photographs A-05579 & A-06236  
Timing Of White Covers Worn On Top Of 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, C.G.A. Forage Caps  
Development Of Fife And Drum Band Leading To Military Parade To St. Paul's Church  
Historical Sketch Booklet Of St. Paul's Naval & Garrison Church – August 23, 1914 Church Services  
Anglican Church – Box 6: Book 25 – Vestry Record of Services – August 23, 1914 (A) & (B)  
Schedule Of Events Including Church Parade, Valedictory Service & Embarkations To The Mainland  
To The European Front Via C.P.R. Steamers And By Trains To The Mobilization Camp At Valcartier, Que.  
Photo of S.S. Princess Mary – 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment Volunteers Embark For War On The C.P.R. Steamer  
Photo of S.S. Princess Sophia – 50<sup>th</sup> & 88<sup>th</sup> Regiment Volunteers Embark For War On The C.P.R. Steamer

# Archives Collection Search

A-05579 - Naval parade in Esquimalt; former site of St. Paul's Anglican Church at left in copse of trees.



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## Standard statement of responsibility area

### Operator

Naval parade in Esquimalt; former site of St. Paul's Anglican Church at left in copse of trees.

### 1. Material designation

Photographic material

### Notes

Contributions and conjectures: The photographer is undetermined.

### Full description

### Access code

# BC Archives Collection Search

Item A-06236 - Leaving camp at the dry dock in Esquimalt for a days manoevers.



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## Title and statement of responsibility area

### Title proper

Leaving camp at the dry dock in Esquimalt for a days manoevers.

### General material designation

- graphic material

### Title notes

- Attributions and conjectures: The photographer is undetermined.

### Level of description

Item

### Reference code

A-06236

**WHITE COVERS**  
**WORN ON TOP OF**  
**5TH REGIMENT, C.G.A.**  
**FORAGE CAPS**

**FORAGE CAPS** with white covers for the men of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment were part of their required clothing at the time when the first wave of infantrymen departed Victoria to fight overseas during World War I. Regimental changes to the wearing of caps leading up to the Great War are best summarized in the pages of the Victoria Daily Times:

Saturday, March 23, 1912 (P. 5) – “white covers will be worn on forage caps from April 1 next”

Saturday, October 5, 1912 (P. 9) – “the wearing of white covers on forage caps will be discontinued from this date until further orders”

Saturday, April 18, 1914 (P. 15) – “white covers will be worn on forage caps from this date until further orders”

There is no further mention of white covers on forage caps in either the Victoria Daily Times or The Daily Colonist after the above-mentioned date to and including the end of World War I.

B.C. Archives Item A-05579

B.C. Archives Item A-06236

**FUSILIERS' FIFE AND DRUM BAND**  
**IN CONJUNCTION WITH**  
**88<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT'S MOVE TO DOCKYARD**  
**LEADING TO**  
**MILITARY PARADE TO ST. PAUL'S CHURCH**

- \* **88<sup>th</sup> Victoria Fusiliers Now Officially Formed**  
– November 9/12 P. 4 (Times)
- \* **88<sup>th</sup> Fusiliers' Brass Band Made First Public Appearance**  
– June 23/13 P.10 (Times)
- \* **Fusiliers' Fife And Drum Band Being Organized**  
– July 10/13 P.16 (Times)
- \* **Fife And Drum Band Now Strong Enough To Parade**  
– May 16/14 P.7 (Times)
- \* **88<sup>th</sup> Fusiliers Now Mobilized And Camped At Dockyard**  
– August 10/14 P.15 (Times)

**AUGUST 23, 1914**

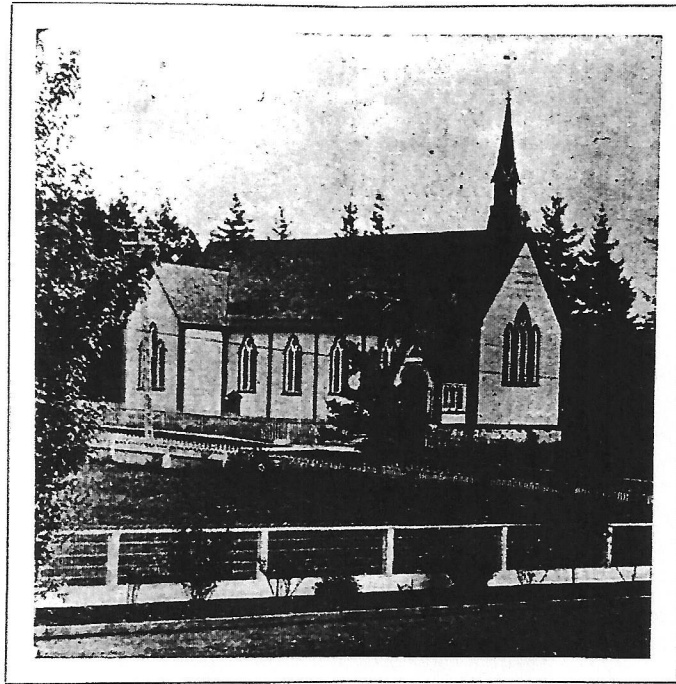
**Military parade to St. Paul's Naval & Garrison Church just days before the departure of the first contingent of local volunteers for service at the front overseas. The photos capture both ends of the Sunday parade which included the 88<sup>th</sup> Victoria Fusiliers and the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, C.G.A. bands in the lead with the officers and ratings of H.M.C.S. Rainbow and naval volunteers bringing up the rear in support.**

# Historical Sketch

1866



1926



St. Paul's Royal Naval Station

and

Garrison Church



ESQUIMALT  
VANCOUVER ISLAND

**During the Great War services were held constantly in barracks, on board ship and in the church for the naval and military personnel quartered here. In those years the whole parish was caught up in the war activities belonging to a naval port and garrison town. The record of services held in the church between 1914 and 1918 records the names of well-known ships and battalions and of men who at one time or another during those years – under the exigencies of war – sought the ministry of the church in this place.**

**On one day for instance – to cite only one – namely August 23, 1914, it is recorded that at 9:45 a.m. a Valedictory Celebration of the Holy Communion was offered for men of the 88<sup>th</sup> Victoria Fusiliers ... and of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, C.G.A. on the eve of departure for the Valcartier Camp. At this service 91 men made their communion with God. The celebrant was the rector who was assisted by the Reverend William Barton. An hour later Captain Barton preached here at a parade service for the officers and ratings of H.M.C.S. Rainbow and naval volunteers. Three days later it is recorded that Barton left for overseas with 70 men of the R.C.G.A.**

**This text lifted from Pages 11 & 12 of  
the Anglican Church booklet entitled:**

**HISTORICAL SKETCH (1866 - 1926)  
ST. PAUL'S ROYAL NAVAL STATION  
AND GARRISON CHURCH**





BOX 6: BOOK 25

Vestry-Record of Services.  
Easter 1904. — Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>. 1917

# ST. PAUL'S

1917

PREACHER

READER OR CELEBRANT

SERVICE

Hour

CALENDAR

DATE

Aug 20 Thursday	9am Prayers	W. R. Allen
Aug 20 Thursday	5pm Adult Baptism	W. R. Barton
Aug 20 Thursday	5:30pm Confirmation	John Charles (Columbia)
Aug 21 Friday	9am Prayers	W. R. Allen
Aug 21 Friday	6pm Evensong	W. R. Allen
Aug 22 Saturday	9am Prayers	W. R. Allen
Aug 22 Saturday	6pm Evensong	W. R. Allen
Aug 23 <u>Ascension</u>	8am Holy Communion	W. R. Allen
Aug 23 Sunday	9:45 Holy Communion	W. R. Allen
Aug 23 Trinity	10:30 Prayers	W. R. Allen
Aug 23 x1 Trinity	6pm Evensong	W. R. Allen
Aug 24 Monday	9am Prayers	W. R. Allen
Aug 24 Monday	6pm Evensong	W. R. Allen
Aug 24 Monday	9am Prayers	W. R. Allen
Aug 25 Tuesday	9am Prayers	W. R. Allen
Aug 25 Tuesday	6pm Evensong	W. R. Allen
Aug 26 Wednesday	9am Prayers	W. R. Allen
Aug 26 Wednesday	6pm Evensong	W. R. Allen
Aug 27 Thursday	9am Prayers	W. R. Allen
Aug 27 Thursday	6pm Evensong	W. R. Allen
Aug 27 Thursday	6:30 Holy Baptism	W. R. Allen
Aug 28 Friday	9am Prayers	W. R. Allen
Aug 28 Friday	6pm Evensong	W. R. Allen
Aug 29 Saturday	9am Prayers	W. R. Allen
Aug 29 Saturday	6pm Evensong	W. R. Allen

assistant

W. R. Barton

Ernest S. Day



## *SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*

Sunday, August 23, 1914

A parade to St. Paul's Naval and Garrison Church for a farewell celebration of the holy communion involving the volunteer contingent of the 88<sup>th</sup> Fusiliers and the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, C.G.A. but also including the officers and ratings of H.M.C.S. Rainbow and naval volunteers bringing up the rear in support.

Wednesday, August 26, 1914

The first contingent of Victorians to leave for the front to fight for the British Empire and its allies were the 70 officers and men of the Fifth Regiment, C.G.A. who boarded the S.S. Princess Mary at the C.P.R. wharf to embark for Valcartier, Quebec.

Friday, August 28, 1914

The next wave of volunteers to leave Victoria were the 500 infantrymen of the 88<sup>th</sup> Victoria Fusiliers and the 50<sup>th</sup> Gordon Highlanders who together boarded the S.S. Princess Sophia at the C.P.R. wharf for the lower mainland to catch the overland train to Valcartier, Quebec.

### *“VALEDICTORY”*

#### As an Adjective

of or relating to a valediction:  
expressing or containing a farewell

#### In a Sentence

a valedictory address given by  
the college president upon  
his retirement

#### Ecclesiastical Setting

a valedictory service  
or celebration

*TO THE EUROPEAN FRONT*  
*VIA VALCARTIER, QUEBEC*  
*& THE C.P.R. STEAMERS*

ON AUGUST 28, 1914, 230 MEMBERS OF THE 88TH REGIMENT OF VICTORIA FUSILIERS MARCHED FROM ITS ESQUIMALT CAMP AT DOCKYARD TO THE STEAMER PRINCESS SOPHIA TO FIGHT OVERSEAS FOR THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND ITS ALLIES.

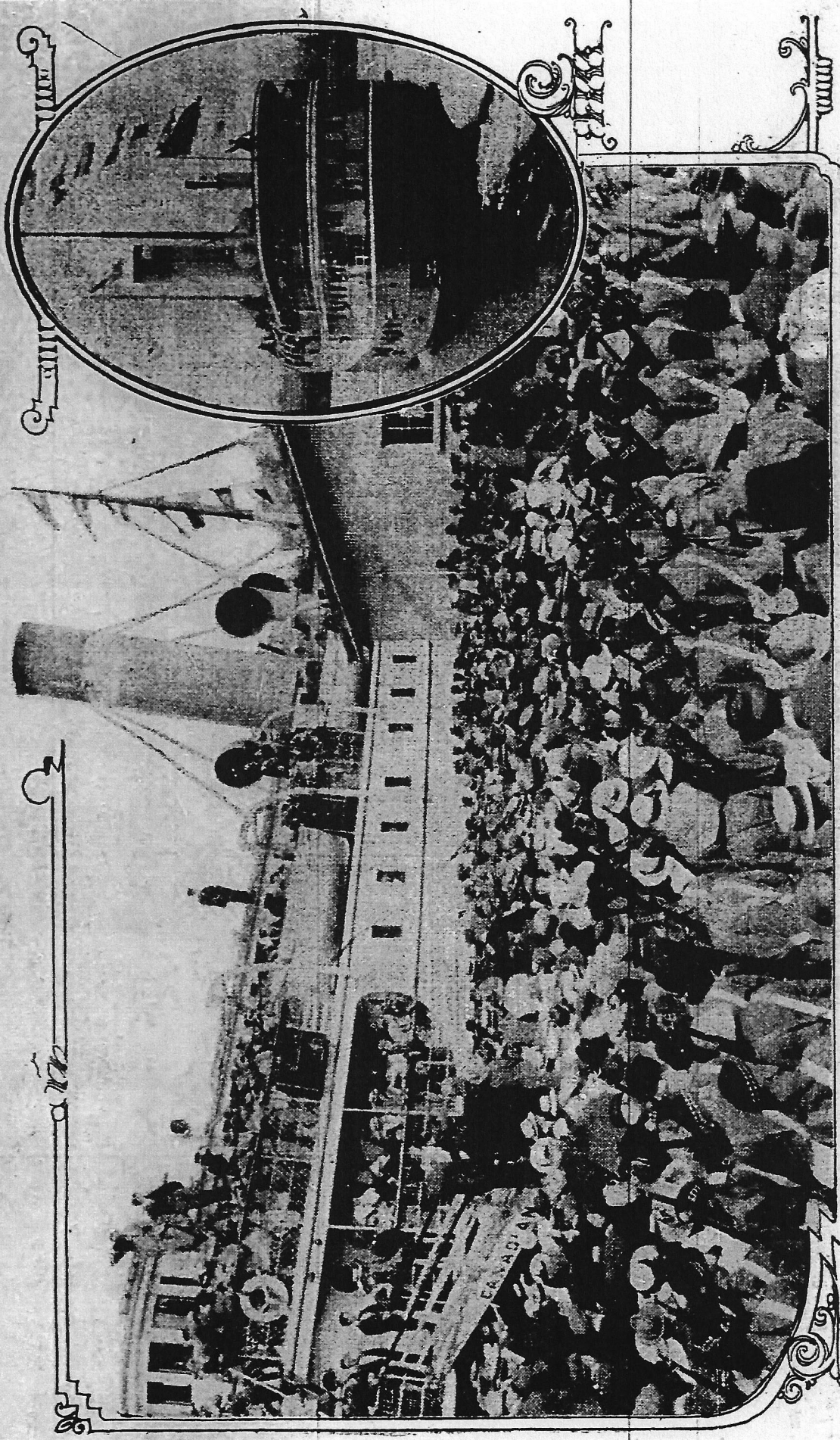
HEADED BY ITS BAND, THE REGIMENT REACHED THE CITY SOME FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE 270 MEMBERS OF THE 50TH REGIMENT OF GORDON HIGHLANDERS WITH ITS PIPES – THEIR ENCAMPMENT BEING LOCATED AT THE WILLOWS. THUS, THE INFANTRYMEN SIMULTANEOUSLY MARCHED THROUGH THE STREETS OF VICTORIA TO THE C.P.R. WHARF FOR EMBARKATION TO VALCARTIER, QUEBEC.

THE UNARMED VOLUNTEERS WERE ESCORTED TO THE SHIP BY ARMED MEMBERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIMENTS AND A SQUAD OF BRITISH SAILORS. THE PIPERS PROVIDED MARCHING MUSIC FOR THE HIGHLANDERS FROM THEIR CAMP WHILE THE BAND OF THE 88TH FUSILIERS PLAYED MUSICAL AIRS FOR ITS CONTINGENT RIGHT FROM DOCKYARD.

(IN ADDITION, THE FIRST VOLUNTEERS TO LEAVE VICTORIA WERE THE 70 MEN OF THE 5TH REGIMENT, C.G.A. WHO LEFT FOR QUEBEC TWO DAYS EARLIER ON BOARD THE STEAMER PRINCESS MARY.)

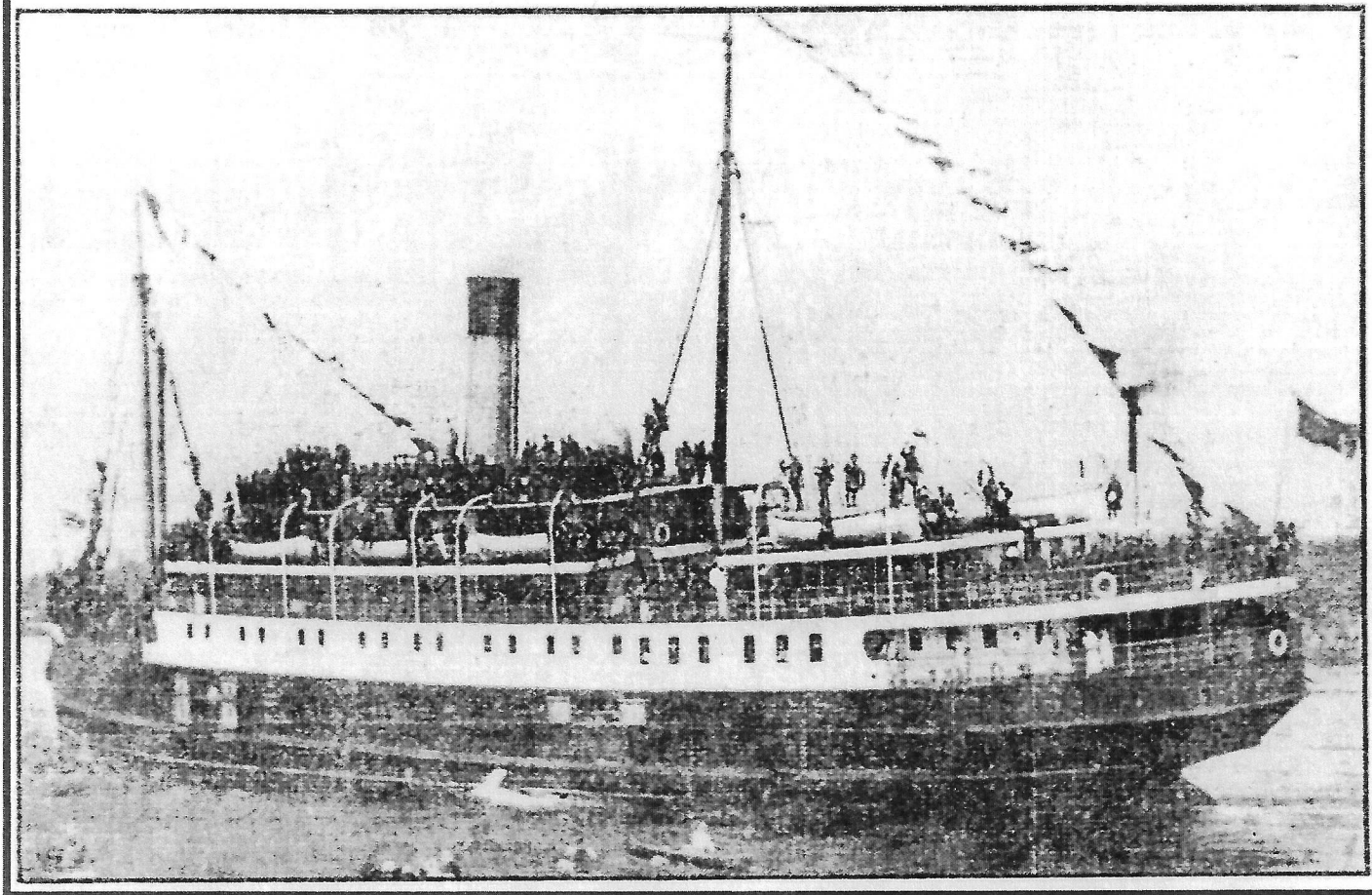
VICTORIA DAILY TIMES – THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1914 (pg. 5)  
THE DAILY COLONIST – FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1914 (pgs. 1 & 2)  
VICTORIA DAILY TIMES – FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1914 (pg. 1)  
THE DAILY COLONIST – SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1914 (pgs. 1 & 3)  
VICTORIA DAILY TIMES – SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1914 (pg. 1 photo)

*First Contingent of Victorians for the Front Leave for Valcartier*



Crowd on C.P.R. Dock Yesterday Bidding Farewell to Volunteers from Fifth Regiment C.G.A.

STEAMSHIP PRINCESS SOPHIA TAKES MEN OF 50TH AND 88TH REGIMENTS





**A FURTHER ARGUMENT FOR A CHURCH PARADE  
AS OPPOSED TO A MILITIA ROUTE MARCH  
(B. C. Archives' Items A-05579 & A-06236)**

**TWO PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES  
SNAPPED DURING THE SAME  
SUNDAY MORNING EVENT  
FROM SIGNAL HILL ON  
AUGUST 23, 1914**

This religious event is a church parade in motion for all the reasons I documented in my earlier report but there is a need to at least mention that certain marching groups in these photos can't logically be associated with the descriptive phrase of “a days manoeuvres [sic]” as written on the reverse side of the end-of-parade photograph.

For instance, can you really imagine a full complement of two different militia bands providing marching music for a joint exercise all day long in the Malahat district or something like seventeen to twenty new recruits in the middle of the pack dressed up in civvies (including ties and hats) slogging through the backwaters of mostly uninhabited Saanich or the Canadian navy and its reservists engaged in a mock fight on the Lansdowne slope in preparation for a land battle on continental Europe? Preposterous!

B. C. Archives' postcard (Item I-77451) dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1914 reveals a timely snapshot of a militia route march with the Fusiliers' fife and drum band leading hardy volunteers armed with rifles “out to manoeuvres [sic]” only later to return to Signal Hill and the Fusiliers' camp at Dockyard.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1914 the Victoria Fusiliers – by far, the largest component in the church parade – marched from Dockyard to their new camp at the Willows.

Attachments (front & back of postcard)

GTR

