Historical Notes Re: Victoria and Esquimalt Fortress and West Coast Defences in World War II compiled from Microfilm # C8363 -Operational Location Statements Held in the National Archives of Canada, Ottawa

The information below was compiled from Microfilm # C8363 during part of a one day visit to the National Archives in February 2008. This microfilm contains copies of hundreds of original documents relating to the defence of Western Canada during World War II. The material below provides just a quick sampling of information related to the west coast artillery defences that I was able to jot down in the limited time (about 2 hours) I had to review this microfilm. There is much more information contained on this microfilm and at some point in the future it would be worth trying to borrow it if possible through an inter-archives loan through, for example, the BC Archives.

- **May 1, 1940**
  Strength of the 5th Heavy Battery last August, 7 Officers, 86 ORs. 36 ORs attached to N.P.A.M. on mobilization. Immediately prior to outbreak of war authority granted to enlist 117 ORs. On September 24, 1939 when recruiting suspended the strength was 9 Officers, 190 ORs of whom 104 were untrained recruits.

  C.F. Stockwell, Brig.
  DOC MD11

- **May 22, 1940**
  1st Battalion Canadian Scottish Regt. has been redistributed temporarily as follows:
  - Mary Hill, 4 officers, 32 ORs
  - Albert Head, 3 officers, 33 ORs
  - Rodd Hill, 5 officers, 42 ORs
  - Work Point Camp, 13 officers, 96 ORs

  Stockwell, Brigadier

- **May 28, 1940**
  60th Hvy. Battery - Fort Belmont, 2 Officers, 46 ORs

- **June 17, 1940 DOC MD11**
  I am requested to inform you of revised Home War establishment
  2nd Battalion, Canadian Scottish Regt. MG, 28 Officers, 500 Other Ranks (ORs)
  Rocky Mountain Rangers, 20 Officers, 300 ORs

  Hertzberg

**Operational Location Statement**

- 15th Van. Coast Bde. RCA: Bessborough Armoury
- 31 Hvy. Battery: Narrows North and Stanley Park Fort
- 58 Hvy. Battery: Steveston Fort and Point Grey
- 85 Hvy. Battery: Yorke Island
- 1st Searchlight Regiment: Narrows North
- **July 9, 1940 DMO and I**
  5th BC Coast Bde. RCA may recruit up to a strength of 27 officers and 500 ORs attached Org. 578 dated 6 July 1940

- **Operational Location Statement, August 25, 1940**
  HQ Work Point  3 Officers, 8 Ors  
  Detachments  Mary Hill Orderly Room  
  Signal Hill QM  
  55th Hvy. Battery - Mary Hill Examination Battery, 3 officers, 97 ORs  
  56th Hvy. Battery - Albert Head Counter Bombardment, 4 Officers, 99 Ors  
  60th Hvy. Battery - Belmont Close Defence and Support Bty. 3 Officers, 58 Ors  
  60th detachment - Duntze Head, 2 Officers, 37 ORs  
  60th detachment - Golf Hill, 2 Officers, 37 Ors  
  60th detachment - Breakwater, 1 Officer, 13 Ors  
  2nd AA Battery - Macaulay, 4 Officers, 94 Ors  
  17th Searchlight Battery  
  - Rodd Hill, 3 Officers, 51 ORs  
  - Duntze Head, 2 Officers, 22 ORs  
  - McLaughlin Pt., 3 Ors  
  - Ogden Pier, 7 ORs  

11th Fortress Signal Co. – Macaulay Camp, 3 Officers, 73 ORs

- **March 17, 1942 - Operational Location Statement Pacific Command**
  - Rodd Hill, HQ and No. 3 Section 17th Searchlight Battery  
  - Rodd Hill, 2nd AA Battery (less detachment)  
  - Colwood Camp, Victoria Rifles of Canada (less 4 Coys.)  
  - Rodd Hill No. 1, 1 AAMG Troop RCA

- **December 4, 1943 – Operational Location Statement Victoria & Esquimalt**
  5th BC Coast Regiment  
  - HQ Signal Hill, 5 officers, 46 ORs  
  - FOP Church Hill, 6 ORs  
  - FOP Mary Hill, 5 ORs  
  - FPR Rodd Hill, 20 ORs  
  - FOP Mt. Tolmie, 2 ORs  
  - FOP Gonzales, 2 ORs  
  - Triangle Mountain, 5 officers, 41 ORs

55 Coast Battery - Mary Hill, 5 officers, 157 ORs  
Searchlight detachment - William Head, 16 ORs  
Searchlight detachment - Mary Hill, 30 ORs  
56 Coast Battery - Albert Head, 6 Officers, 154 ORs  
Searchlight detachment - Albert Head, 37 ORs

60th Coast Battery - Macaulay Point, 3 officers, 101 ORs
Searchlight detachment - Saxe Point, 42 ORs
Searchlight detachment - Harrison Point and McLaughlin Point, 25 ORs
- Black Rock Fort, 1 officer, 48 ORs
Searchlight detachment - Black Rock, 27 ORs
- Golf Hill Fort, 2 Officers, 47 ORs

(Unit not specified, but at this time should be 9th Coast Battery RCA?),
Christopher Point HQ, 4 officers, 102 ORs
- Beechy Head, 3 ORs
- Church Hill, 3 ORs,

109th Coast Battery - (Belmont Fort) Rodd Hill, 5 officers, 99ORs
Searchlight detachment - Gotha Point, 28 ORs
- Ogden Point Fort, 4 ORs
- Duntze Head Fort, 3 Officers, 47 ORs
Searchlight detachment - Holland Point, 28 ORs
Searchlight detachment – Clover Point, 28 ORs

Compiled by: Dale Mumford, 2008