

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, 32ORs
- 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
31 Hvy. Battery
58 Hvy. Battery
85 Hvy. Battery
1st Searchlight Regiment

Bessborough Armoury
Narrows North and Stanley Park Fort
Steveston Fort and Point Grey
Yorke Island
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 - Mary Hill
 - 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