

THE VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY, KING GEORGE VI

On 29th May, 1939, Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, arrived in Vancouver to be greeted by Provincial and Civic authorities and a Royal Guard mounted by the Vancouver Division of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Air Force, Western Command. The streets were lined by detachments from H.M.C. SHIPS and from the Reserve, together with army and air force personnel. In the afternoon, Their Majesties embarked in SS Princess Marguerite for Victoria. The escort consisted of the four destroyers Ottawa, Fraser, St. Laurent and Restigouche. The motor vessel, H.M.C.S. Skidegate was senior officer and a group of vessels manned by the Fisherman's Reserve of the R.C.N.R. which helped to control traffic in English Bay. The two R.C.N. minesweepers Comox and Nootka acted as guard ships in Active Pass and in the vicinity of Discovery Island. When Their Majesties reached Victoria, the R.C.N. mounted a Royal guard and band and provided some of the detachments which lined the streets. The following day, 30th of May, saw the presentation of the King's Colour to the R.C.N. Western Command at Beacon Hill Park. This marked the first occasion when a reigning monarch had presented his colour in person outside the British Isles. The streets were lined and a very large crowd greeted Their Majesties in Beacon Hill Park. When the ceremony was over, the King's Colour was marched off to H.M.C.S. NADEN and Their Majesties returned to Government House. The following day, Their Majesties embarked in SS Prince Robert and were escorted to Vancouver by the four destroyers.

THE KING'S COLOUR

The King's Colour is a symbol of the Sovereign and, when paraded, is accorded the same marks of respect as would be given if His Majesty were present in person. His Majesty's Ships at sea have long been accustomed to the marks of respect accorded to the White Ensign, symbol of Britannic Majesty, but naval forces

taking part in ceremonies on shore prior to 1924 did not have the privilege of parading the King's Colour.

In 1924, His Majesty King George V graciously approved the use by the Royal Navy and the Royal Navies of the Dominions of Colours to be known as "The King's Colour."

The King's Colour is a White Ensign of silk, with a crown and Royal Cypher superimposed and with blue and gold tassels.

King's Colours are held by eight commands in the Royal Navy, two in the Royal Canadian Navy (Halifax and Esquimalt), two in the Royal Australian Navy and one in the New Zealand Division of the Royal Navy.

The King's Colour may be paraded on shore on the following occasions only:

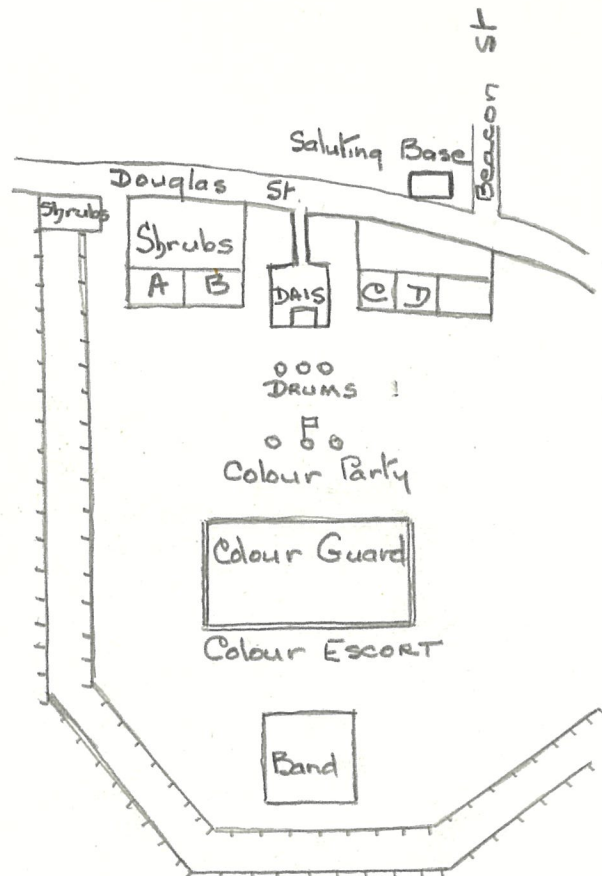
- (a) By a Guard of Honour mounted for H.M. the King, H.M. the Queen, ~~XXXX~~ or for a member of the Royal Family.
- (b) By a Guard of Honour mounted for a Foreign Sovereign, or the President of a Republican State.
- (c) At parades to celebrate the birthday of His or Her Majesty.
- (d) On such important ceremonial occasions as may be ordered by the Admiralty or Naval Commander-in-Chief.

In no circumstances may the King's Colour be paraded on board ship or on foreign territory.

On all occasions of the King's Colour being moved, a guard must be present and due ceremony observed.

THE CEREMONY OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE KING'S COLOUR

by His Majesty King George VI at Beacon Hill Park,
Victoria, B.C. on 30th May, 1939.



1. The King's Colour placed on piled drums by a colour escort.
2. The Band and Escort Company marched onto the ground and formed a hollow square.
3. The Colour Guard marched on and was received by the Escort Company with rifles at the "slope".
4. H.M. the King arrived on the dais, his Royal Standard was broken and the parade gave a Royal Salute.
5. The Colour Party moved forward and halted in front of the piled drums. The Colour Officer (wearing belt) knelt.
6. The Senior Naval Officer uncased the Colour, the band playing Rule Britannia and handed it to His Majesty, who placed the staff in the Colour Belt.
7. The Colour Officer rose and stepped back into the Colour Party.
8. The parade gave a Royal Salute, the Colour being dipped in salute.
9. The Colour was marched into the ranks of the Colour Guard at the slow march, the band playing the National Anthem.
10. The Colour Guard and Escort Company moved off to position for 'marching past' and marched past. His Majesty received the salute.
11. His Majesty departed and the parade reformed on the parade ground.

12. The parade marched to Royal Canadian Naval Barracks, Esquimalt, with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed, via the following route:

Park Road, Rupert Street, Humboldt Street, Douglas Street, Johnson Street, Esquimalt Road, Admirals Road.

On arrival at the Royal Canadian Naval Barracks, the King's Colour received a Royal Salute and was then marched out and trooped at the slow march down the front ranks of the Colour Guard and Colour Escort. It was then marched off the parade ground and put in a place of safe keeping.

UNITS TAKING PART:

S.N.O. Capt. V.C. Brodeur, RCN

Colour Guard: 2 officers (Lt.-Cdr. E.P. Tisdall, RCN in command.)
4 Petty Officers.
96 ratings.

Colour Party: Colour Officer: Lt. J.C. Hibbard, R.C.N.
1 Chief Petty Officer.
2 Leading Seamen.

Western Command Band: Approximately 54 volunteers from all branches and of various rates drawn from all ships and RCN Barracks, trained by Chief Petty Officer Writer B. W. Fairweather.

Escort Company: 7 Officers (Lt.-Cdr. H.F. Pullen, RCN, in command.)
216 ratings.

Company lining the streets: 5 Officers (Lt.-Cdr. A.C. Wurtele, RCN, in command.)
320 Ratings.

Total number of Officers and ratings taking part:

15 Officers) Provided from all His Majesty's Canadian
639 Ratings) Ships and Establishments of the Western
Command.

(Included in the above were officers and ratings of the Naval Reserve forces who were then undergoing naval training.)