

15th Field Artillery Regiment

Officers' Mess

2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC
V6J 2C7

Sept 2003

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Notice of Meeting

127th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Canadian Artillery Association
to be held in Victoria, British Columbia

Friday, September 19th and Saturday September 20th 2003 and includes...

Artillery Symposium 2003 - "Artillery to 2020" -
a one day symposium on the artillery of the future
Saturday, September 20th, 2003.

Featuring experts from throughout the Pacific Rim on a broad range of
subjects of interest.

Open to all paid up delegate members, associate members of the RCAA and
invited guests. Limited seating, some special symposium fees may apply.

Register early:

For information and registration packages go to <http://www.artillery.net> or Write, call or email:

The Adjutant RCAA 2003,
5 (British Columbia) Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery
The Armoury
715 Bay Street
Victoria, BC CANADA V8T 1R1
1-250-363-3626
or e-mail: rcaa2003@sheldrake.ca

MEMBERSHIP



Major Emerson C Short KStJ, CD, receives a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal from Major Roy Rigby-Jones CD, vice-president (BC) on the national council of the Army Cadet League of Canada, awarded in recognition of his 31 years of outstanding service to the BC League.

THE ST EDWARD'S CROWN

By LCol (Retd) DE Gayton, EM, CD

(Based on "Crowns and Coronations: A reflection and overview - HM's Crowning No Fairy Tale" by Bruce Patterson, Saguenay Herald, Canadian Herald Authority, published in Canadian Monarchist News (Coronation Jubilee Number) Summer 2003 Vol 7 No 4)

The St Edward's Crown commonly called the Queen's Crown is the crown which currently surmounts the gun on our Artillery badge. It was most recently taken into use when Queen Elizabeth II succeeded her father, George VI in 1952. It is the essential identifying mark for the monarch throughout the Commonwealth. It is perhaps best known as a printed symbol: the actual crown has only been worn for a matter of minutes in the past few centuries.

The St Edward's Crown, which was made for the coronation of Charles II in 1661, was destroyed during the Cromwellian period. The name comes from King Edward the Confessor, the Saxon King who became England's patron saint until that honour passed to St George in the 15th century. Edward founded Westminster Abbey, the site of all subsequent English coronations, and he instituted much of the coronation regalia. The crown that he had made was, oddly enough, a second try. He had entrusted the original

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Last Post

"The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
the soldier's last tattoo.
No more on life's parade we shall meet
the brave and fallen few."
We shall remember them.



CWO Raymond (Paul) Guttridge CD

Raymond Guttridge was born in Gillingham, Kent, England August 26, 1930. Educated at Holcombe Technical College, Chatham and entered the Royal Naval Dockyard as an apprentice in 1945. From 1944 until the end of hostilities he served with the National Fire Service. In 1947 he enlisted in the Royal Air Force and was medically discharged in 1949, but continued to serve in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve until 1957 when he emigrated with his family to Canada. From 1958 until his retirement in 1972 he served with the Canadian Militia, initially in the 8th Technical Regiment, Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers and then the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. He was awarded the Centennial Medal in 1967 for his service. He rose to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer and served as Regimental Sergeant Major from 1968 until 1972. He passed away April 24, 2003 in Nelson, British Columbia.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Regimental personnel were busy all summer, taking qualifying and trade courses and joining the firefighting activities in the Interior. The following personnel completed courses this summer.

Major Kuhn	Commanding Officers Course, Part one;
Captain Mathews	Intermediate Classification Training (Supply / Transport);
Captain Purcell	Advanced Classification Training (Battery Commanders);
Captain Wickens	Advanced Classification Training (Battery Commanders);
2nd Lieutenant Helina	Basic Officer Training Period;
2nd Lieutenant Hui	Basic Officer Training Period;
Officer Cadet Greive	Basic Officer Training Period and Common Army Phase Training;
M/Bombardier McKenzie	Artillery Technician Supervisor and Forward Observation Officer Technician;
Bombardier Coleman	Primary Leadership Qualification Mod's 5 and 6
Bombardier Taylor	Primary Leadership Qualification Mod 5
Private Bailey	Soldier Qualification and DP 1 Artillery;
Private Bolgak	Soldier Qualification and DP 1 Artillery;
Private Forystek	Soldier Qualification and DP 1 Artillery;
Private Holt	Basic Military Qualification and Soldier Qualification;
Private Jaing	Basic Military Qualification;
Private Kuzyk	Basic Military Qualification and Soldier Qualification;
Private Lysholm	Supply Technician Journeyman QL 5;
Private Pare	Basic Military Qualification and Soldier Qualification;
Private Poritz	Basic Military Qualification and Soldier Qualification;
Private Scott	Basic Military Qualification and Soldier Qualification;
Private Steffen	Basic Military Qualification and Soldier Qualification;
Private Sutherland	Supply Technician Journeyman QL 5
Private Zhong	DP 1 Artillery.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST FIRES – REGIMENTAL PARTICIPATION

The following Regimental personnel have been involved in the continuing Military efforts to fight the devastating fires in the Province, either directly at the fire face, in liaison positions or in transporting desperately needed vehicles to the Fire area:

Major Kuhn	Master Bombardier Jakimchuk
Captain Mathews	Master Bombardier Mckenzie
Lieutenant Gayton	Bombardier Kurtagich
Sergeant Bond	Bombardier Dajko
Sergeant Halpin	Bombardier Haman-Dass
Sergeant Smith	Gunner Bolegoh
Sergeant Tennant	Gunner Hill
Master Bombardier Abbott	Gunner Mayer
	Private Sutherland

Piper James Cleland Richardson VC

The unveiling of a statue to Piper James Cleland Richardson VC, will occur October 11, 2003 with ceremonies commencing at 1400hrs on the front grounds of the Chilliwack Museum, located at 45820 Spadina Avenue. It is expected that somewhere between 1000 to 3000 people (including as many as 30 members of the Richardson family, some of whom will participate in the unveiling) will attend, so it is advisable to arrive by 1315. Bleacher seating is being provided and an area will be reserved for those who may require assistance, such as those in wheelchairs. In attendance will be the Canadian Scottish Regiment, travelling from Vancouver Island with its Pipe and Drum Band, the Seaforth Highlanders including its Pipes and Drums and the Chilliwack and District Pipe and Drum Band. Following the ceremony the pipe bands will parade through the streets of Chilliwack on three separate routes.



Piper Richardson enlisted for the First World War at the age of 17 and, on Oct. 8, 1916, found himself trapped in No Man's Land, in the pouring rain, in the pitch black of 0430hrs. The First Canadian Brigade was advancing on the German lines but the 16th Battalion was pinned before unbroken barbed wire and taking heavy casualties. The 16th Battalion, which eventually became The Canadian Scottish Regiment, had been cobbled together from sub-units taken from four other highland regiments. They were companies drawn from Vancouver's Seaforth Highlanders, the regiment with which Richardson had enlisted, the Gordon Highlanders of Victoria, Winnipeg's Cameron Highlanders and Hamilton's Canadian Highlanders. Richardson's commanding officer, Major George Lynch, lay dying -- of the commissioned officers, all but one lieutenant would be slain. The Chilliwack kid decided his duty as a piper was to rally the battle-hardened soldiers of the 16th as though he were some tough old sergeant-major. He put the wind in his bagpipes, stood up and played the Reel of Tulloch, walking back and forth under heavy fire for a quarter of a mile in front of the barbed wire until his comrades, watching the brave lad, began to rise like dirty apparitions from the shell-harrowed earth and advance behind him.

A middling quality high school runner can cover 700 paces in less than two minutes. For those soldiers, witnesses later said, leaning forward into the wicked zipping and zapping of machinegun bullets like men struggling against a stiff wind, the walk took an eternity. At the other end, rifles bristling with bayonets, equally battle-hardened German marines waited in what was identified on the maps as Regina Trench and the Quadrilateral. That day, with a boy from small town BC leading the way, the Canadian Scottish swept through the fiercely defended German position before the ruined French village of Courcellette and cleared Regina Trench. "One of the great deeds of the war," Lt Col. Cyrus Peck, would write of his young piper's bravery. "The conditions were those of indescribable peril and terror. The lad's whole soul was bound up in the glory of piping." For his courage, Richardson was awarded the Victoria Cross, the British Empire's highest military decoration for valour. He was never to know it. Later that day, detailed to escort his wounded sergeant-major and several prisoners to the rear, Piper Richardson found that he had forgotten his pipes and went back to the front line to get them. He vanished into the storm of

shellfire.

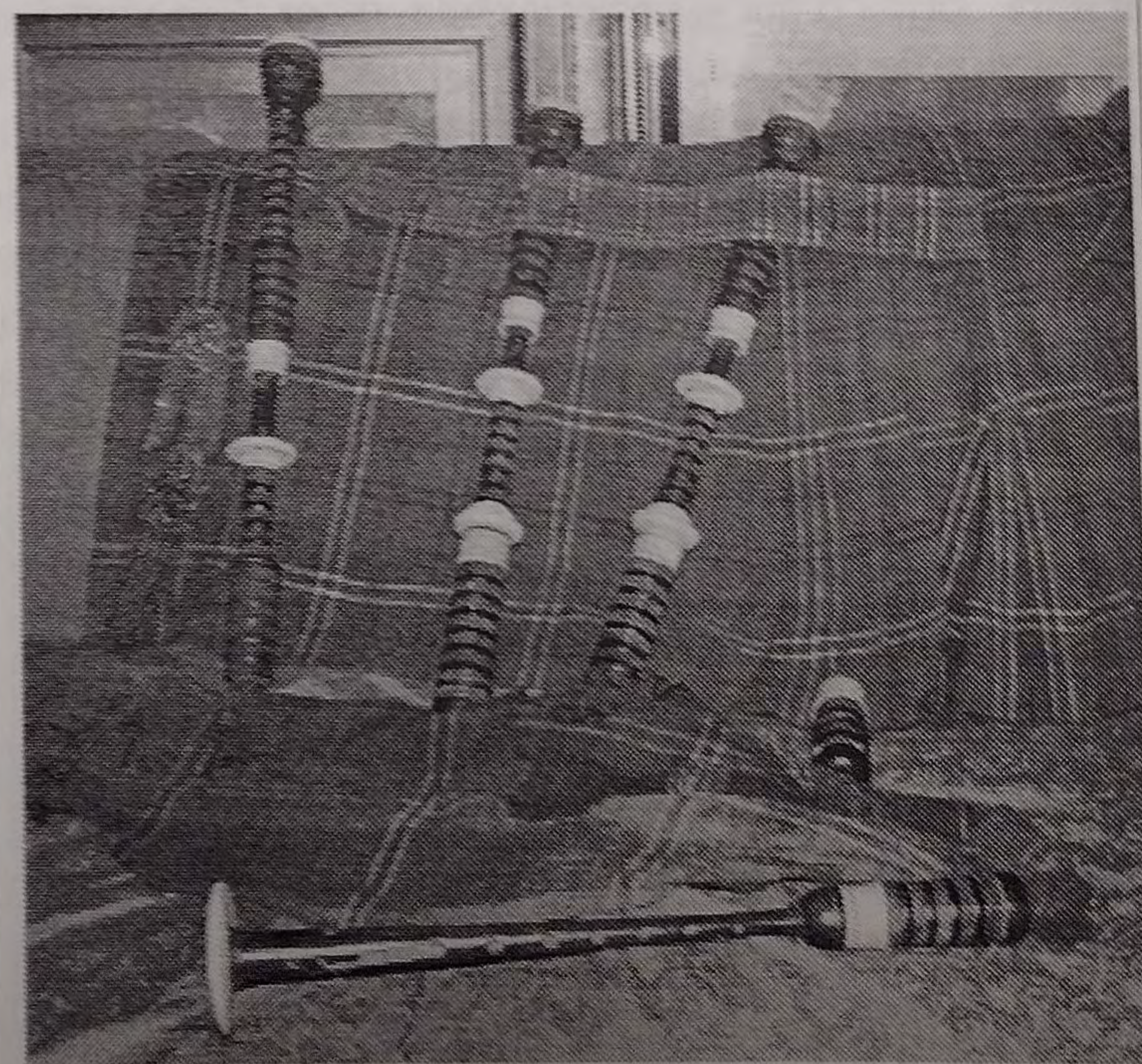
A military service record indicates that on June 15, 1920, his body was exhumed from an obscure battlefield grave known only as 57c.M.17.A. The remains were identified as Piper Richardson's and re-buried at the Adanac Cemetery where they now lie.

All that remained of Piper James Cleland Richardson, one of British Columbia's greatest war heroes, was the vivid transit of his incredible courage across the dwindling ranks of men who witnessed it, then told and re-told his story. But the mystery of Piper Richardson and the fate of one of Canada's most famous war artifacts has finally begun to unravel thanks to the patient work of Pipe Major Roger McGuire of the Canadian Scottish Regiment and his supporters on a committee of patriotic citizens associated with the Canadian Club of Vancouver. The mystery revolves around a tattered, mud-stained set of broken bagpipes which were discovered in a display case at Ardvreck School in the Scottish highlands, deposited there as a battle souvenir by one of the school's teachers who had served in the First World War. Major Edward Yeld Bate, an Oxford-educated chaplain with the British Army, presented them to Ardvreck when he retired from his teaching post at the school at Crieff, in Perthshire, in 1931. In the display case with the pipes he left a card explaining that they had been found on the battlefield at Courcelette in 1917 after lying four or five months in the open. Tomas Christie, a parent with boys attending the school, also happens to be a piper. He became curious about the bagpipes with the mud of the Somme still on them and wondered whether he could track down the family of whoever had owned them. In particular, he was curious about their unusual tartan -- one for which he couldn't find an association with any known Scottish regiment -- and posted a hopeful query on the Internet. It was noticed by McGuire, one of the few people in the world who immediately recognized the important intersection of date, place, tartan and the fact that the pipes had remained unidentified for so long.

They were picked up at Courcelette in the spring of 1917, months after the Canadian Scottish had been withdrawn and re-deployed for the attack on Vimy Ridge, never to return to the sector. Not for another 18 months would Richardson's Victoria Cross be formally announced. The pipes' link to the hero of

Regina Trench would have gone unremarked but they were passed to the safe hands of Major Bate, possibly until they could be returned to their regiment. But what regiment that was would not have been at all clear at the time. As the carnage deepened on the Western Front -- the Canadians alone would suffer 26,000 casualties in the bloodbath on the Somme -- the 16th Battalion had been cobbled together from units in four other highland regiments. They were companies drawn from Vancouver's Seaforth Highlanders, the regiment with which Richardson had enlisted, the Gordon Highlanders of Victoria, Winnipeg's Cameron Highlanders and Hamilton's Canadian Highlanders. Since all these regiments wore a different tartan and needed one in common, the new commanding officer decided it should be his wife's family tartan, Lennox.

In its wisdom, the army instead sent khaki kilts, which the troops refused to wear. So in 1916, Richardson would still have been wearing his Seaforth tartan, Mackenzie, but his regimental war pipes would have been decorated with the new battalion's tartan, Lennox. That was the tip-off for McGuire. After Christie e-mailed him a poor polaroid snapshot of the pipes in their glass case, he became increasingly certain that the mysterious tartan that couldn't be linked to any British regiments might, in fact, be the obscure Lennox tartan of his own regiment. With help from the Canadian Club and the committee established



The pipes laid out against a cloth of Lennox tartan

by Winstanley, he went to Scotland in early January to investigate. He found Christie, the son of a colonel with the Royal Scots Fusiliers, living in a hunting lodge built in the highlands in 1820, and was invited to a supper of curried pheasant over which, he says, they discussed everything but Richardson and the mysterious pipes. Then Christie got up. "He went out of the room and got the pipes and started laying them out," McGuire says. "I felt the hair on the back of my neck was standing up. All I could think was, 'My Gosh, these could really be Richardson's pipes!' "If they are, it can be said they are the most famous set of pipes in Canadian history," says McGuire. "Looking at them and realizing what they might be was an indescribable experience for a piper. The mud is still on them and holding the pieces my imagination ran wild as to what they had actually experienced." While the cover on the pipes' bag is soiled with First World War mud and the ivory is still speckled with brown stains that might be blood, inside the cover the tartan is pristine, McGuire says. He laid it out with the Lennox tartan kilt he'd brought from Victoria. The clincher was a narrow strip of ribbon with the same characteristic double white lines that show up strongly even in black-and-white photographs from the First World War. Without question, McGuire says, the broken pipes are from the 16th Battalion. The distinctive tartan and the date and place of their discovery now point directly to Piper Richardson although absolute certainty remains to be established, McGuire says. That's because one other Canadian piper was killed the same day at Courcellette. But the Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists a Piper John Park as being with the Manitoba Regiment and there's no record of him being in the rotation to pipe on that particular day while Richardson has such a record. Piper Park might have been attached to the highlanders but would his pipes also have had the Lennox tartan? That's another mystery that awaits further investigation, as does the question of how the broken pipes came to be in the custody of the long-dead Major Bate. For now, McGuire says the important thing is to make sure that what seem likely to prove the most famous set of bagpipes in Canadian history are secured and protected. To that end, the National Museum of Scotland now appears to be involving itself. It is to be hoped museum authorities here soon will, too, and Piper Richardson's fate will cease to be a mystery and become a story that every Canadian school kid knows.

THE ST EDWARD'S CROWN

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gold and jewels with which to make the crown to a monk name *Spearhavoc* (designated as Bishop of London) who absconded with them.



The St Edward's Crown

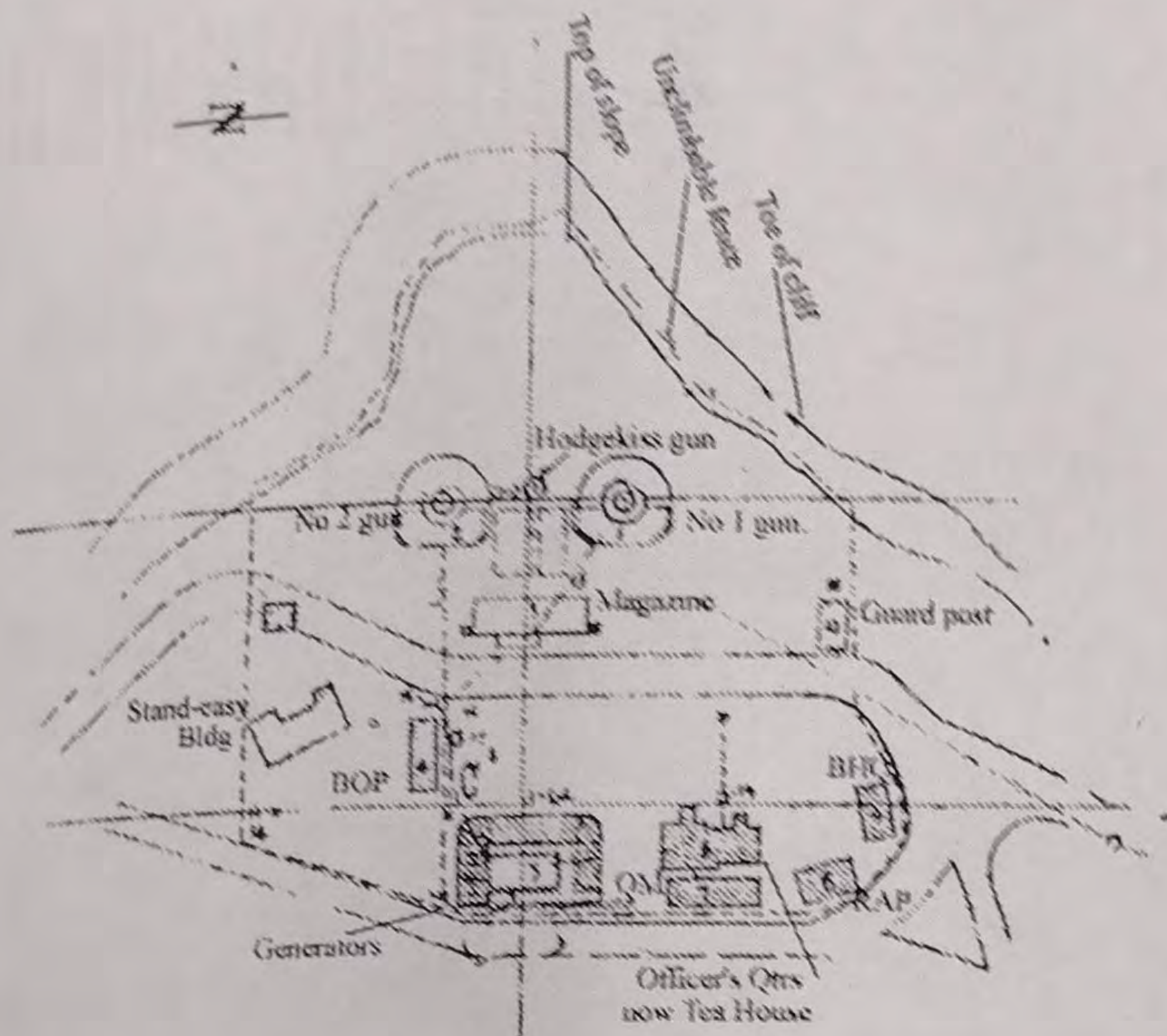


The Imperial State Crown

MUSEUM NOTES

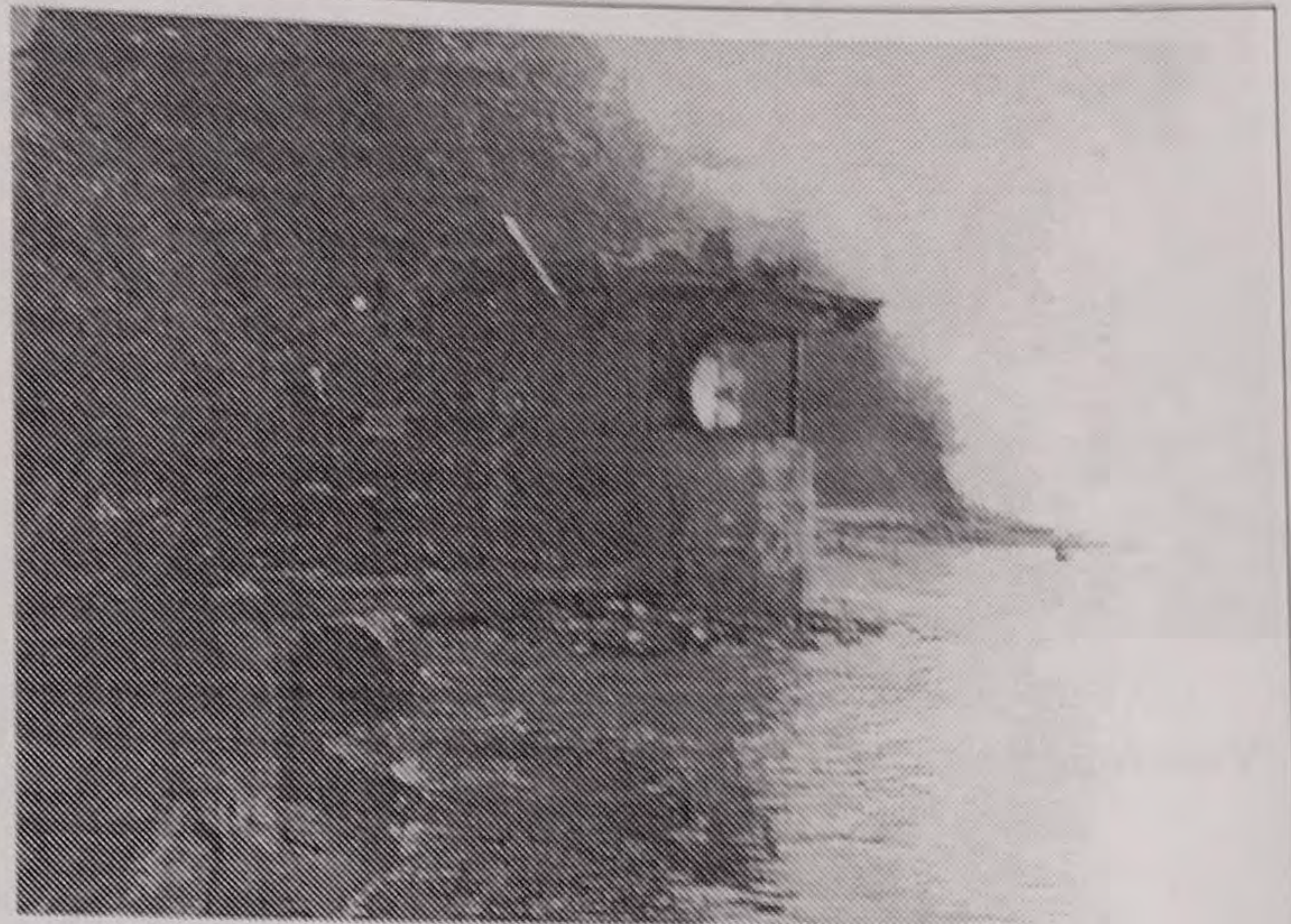
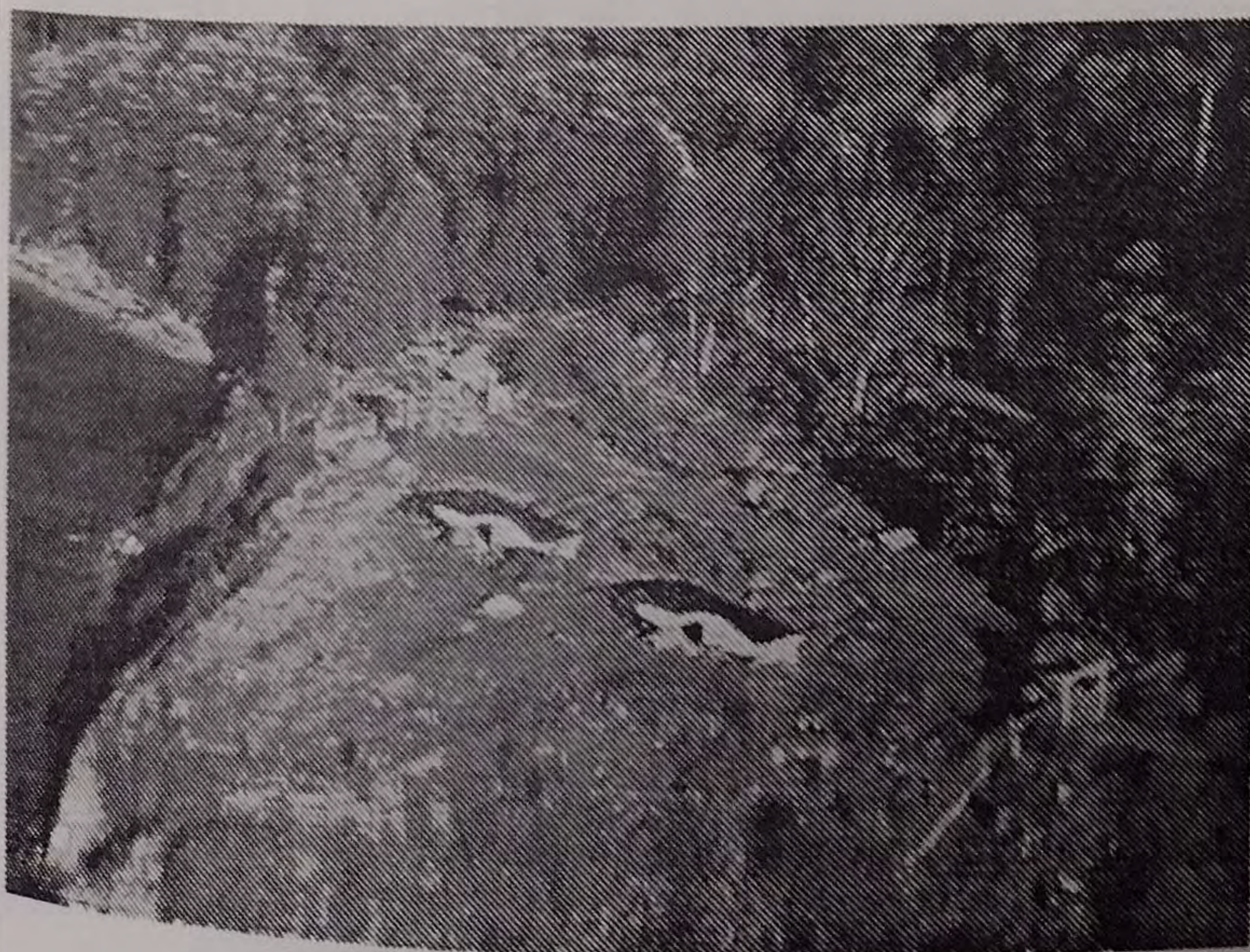
LCol RV Stevenson CD

Stanley Park Fort Ferguson Point



Fort Stanley Park

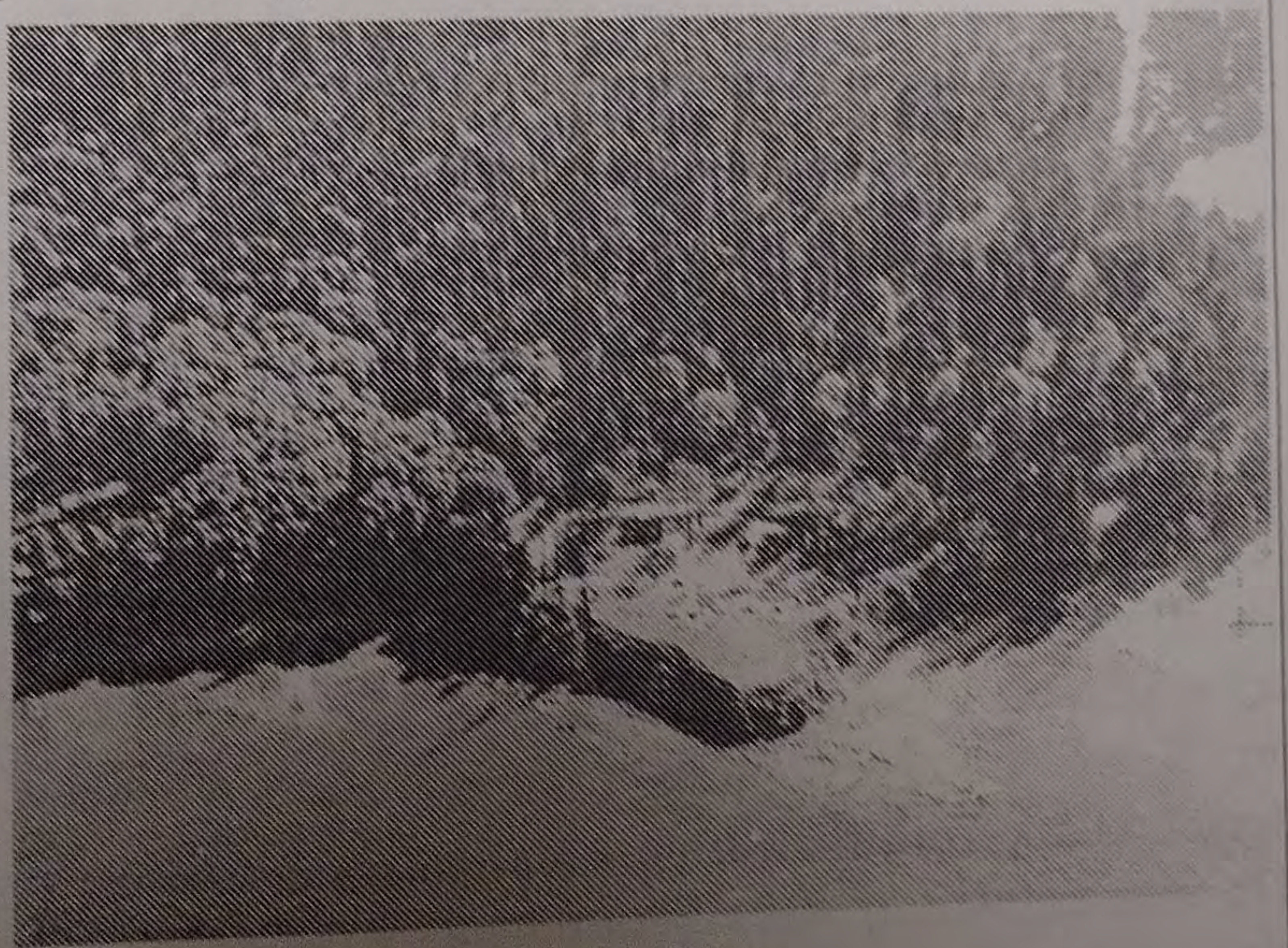
The Ferguson Point gun position, officially known as Stanley Park Fort, was situated in Stanley Park between 2nd Beach and 3rd Beach with mess facilities and OR's quarters located behind 3rd Beach. Construction was started in 1938 and completed in November 1939. The armament first installed in this fort were 2 Breech Loading, 6 inch (Mk VII) guns on 6 inch(MkII) Breech Load mountings. These guns and mountings were emplaced on Ferguson Point, 50yds from the sea cliff. Their active role was to protect English Bay and other shorelines on which the guns could be brought to bear, engage any enemy ships that entered the battery's arc of fire and act as a



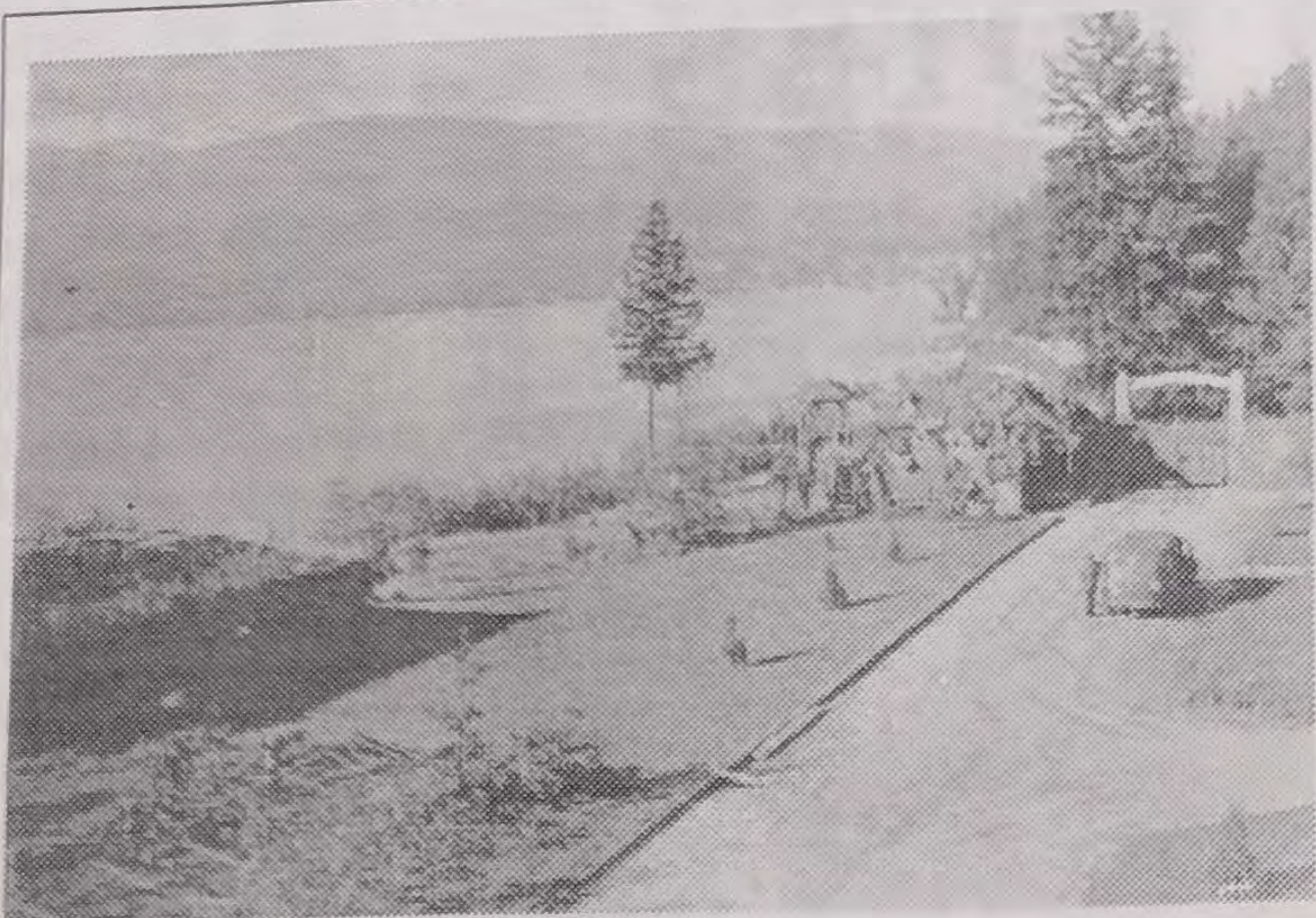
A searchlight Emplacement on the beach.

detaining battery, covering vessels being held in the examination area, which was seaward of the Fort's position. The battery was also in support of the Point Grey, Narrows North and Point Atkinson Batteries. At the outbreak of WW2 the guns at Stanley Park Fort were manned by 31 Heavy Battery, RCA consisting of approximately 150 all-ranks, under the command of Major KW Hicks.

Searchlight equipment for Stanley Park Fort consisted of 3 Searchlights, Arc, 60", CB, type A2 (DND #62,51 and 54, with remote control located below the Battery Observation Post (BOP). The searchlights projected a powerful beam of light, focused into a 2-3° beam and had a range of 6000 yards. Power for the searchlights was supplied by Gardiner diesel generators, type 4LW (DND 101 and 102). Another



The position during construction (left) and later in the war under camouflage



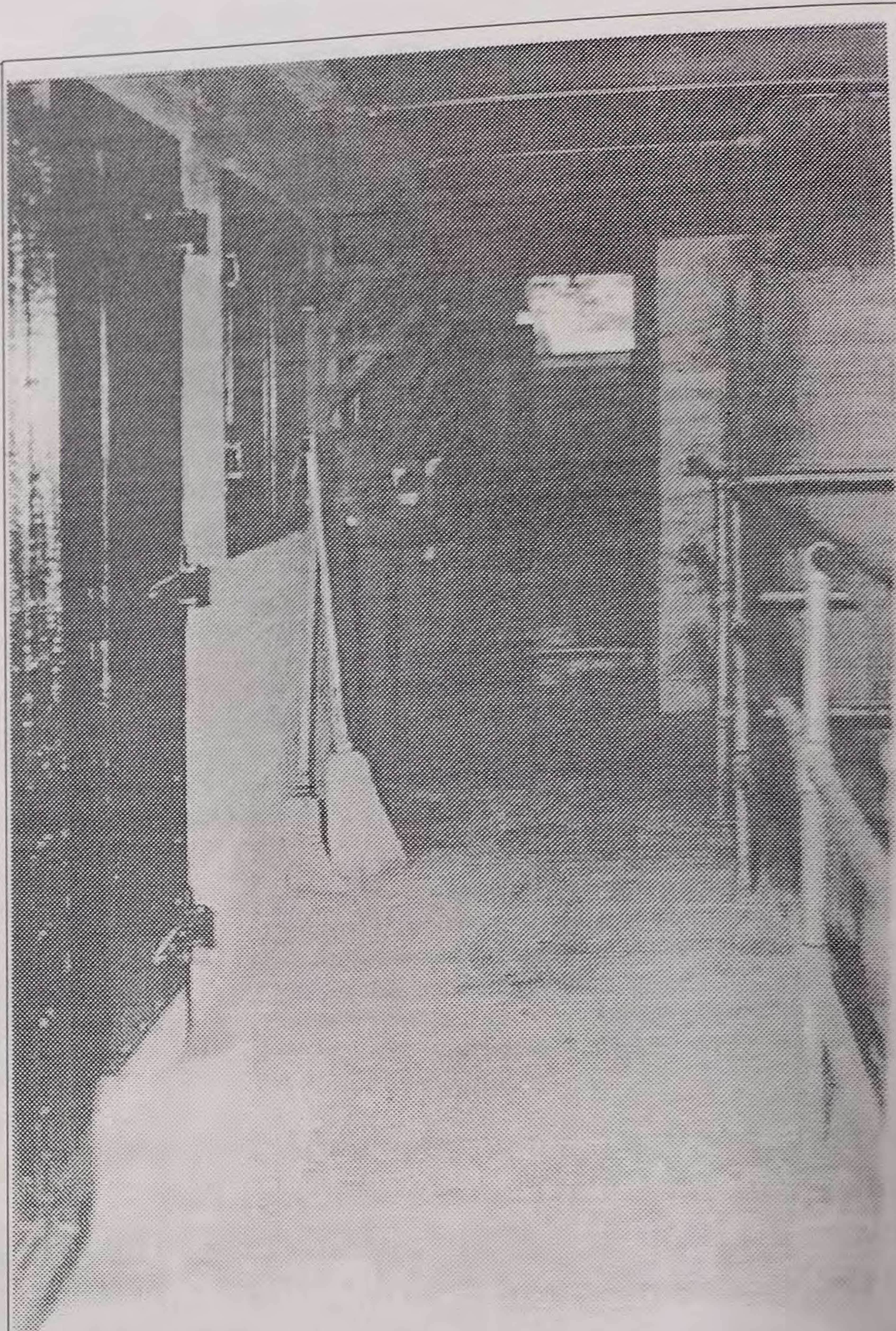
View from the BOP, looking towards the guard shack and the North gate. #1 gun on the left



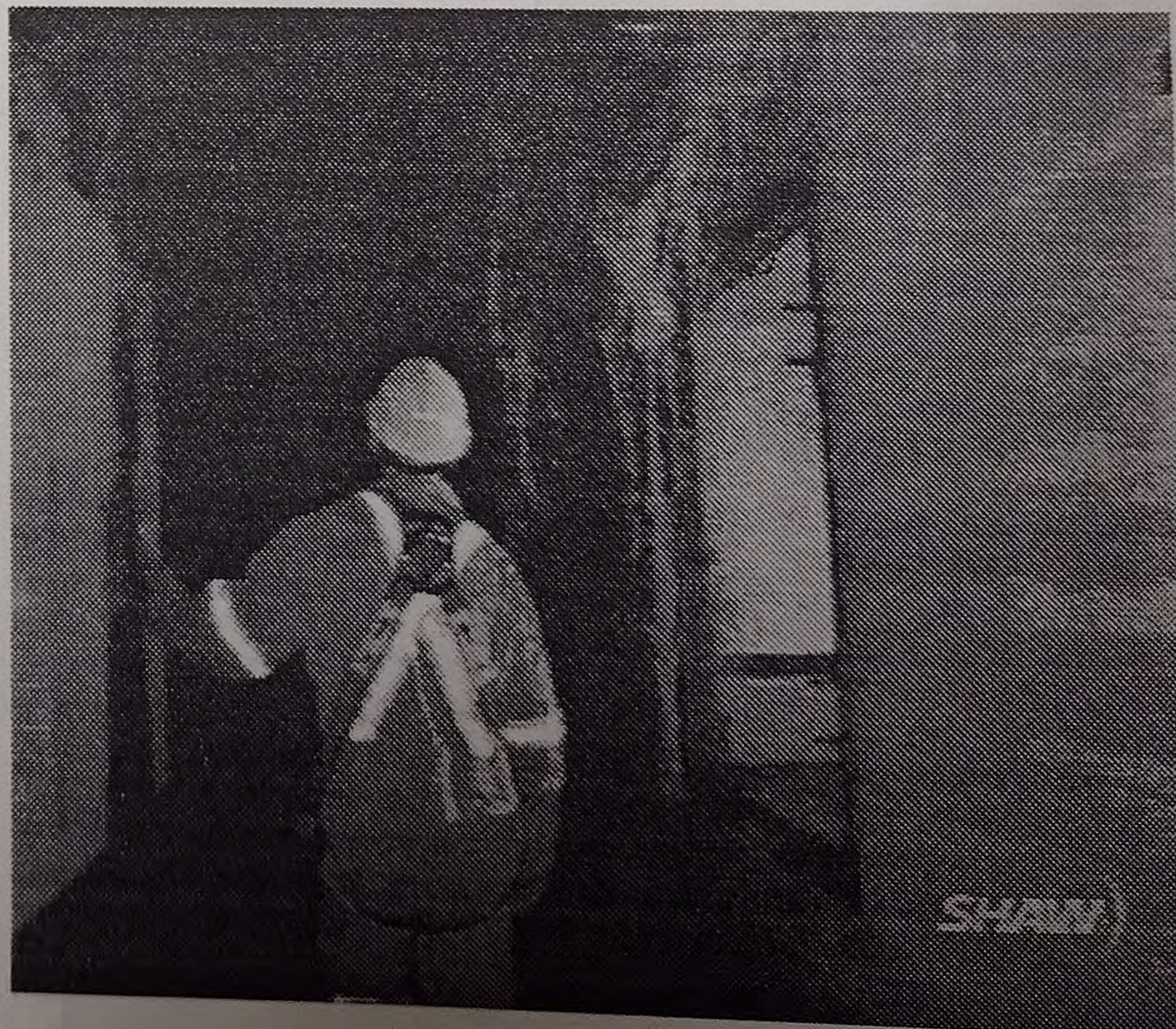
View of #1 gun from the top of #2 gun

searchlight (DND 95) supplied by power by Engine 95 was placed in a concrete emplacement near Siwash Rock, North of the battery position. Ranges were obtained using a Rangefinder, Depression, MkII, Reg No407 mounted on a concrete pedestal in the BOP. Magazines and storerooms were built of reinforced concrete. The magazine was a Class D type and had electrically operated ammunition hoists (platform type) capable of lifting an ammunition trolley containing 10-6inch HE shells. It was found that, during periods of extreme wet weather, the magazine floors failed to keep out water seepage and 1 ft drains had to be cut into the floor and an electric pump installed outside the main magazine door. Overhead cover and back protecting walls were built of reinforced concrete and steel to protect the gun detachments from shell fragmentation.

The entire position was camouflaged by the RCE



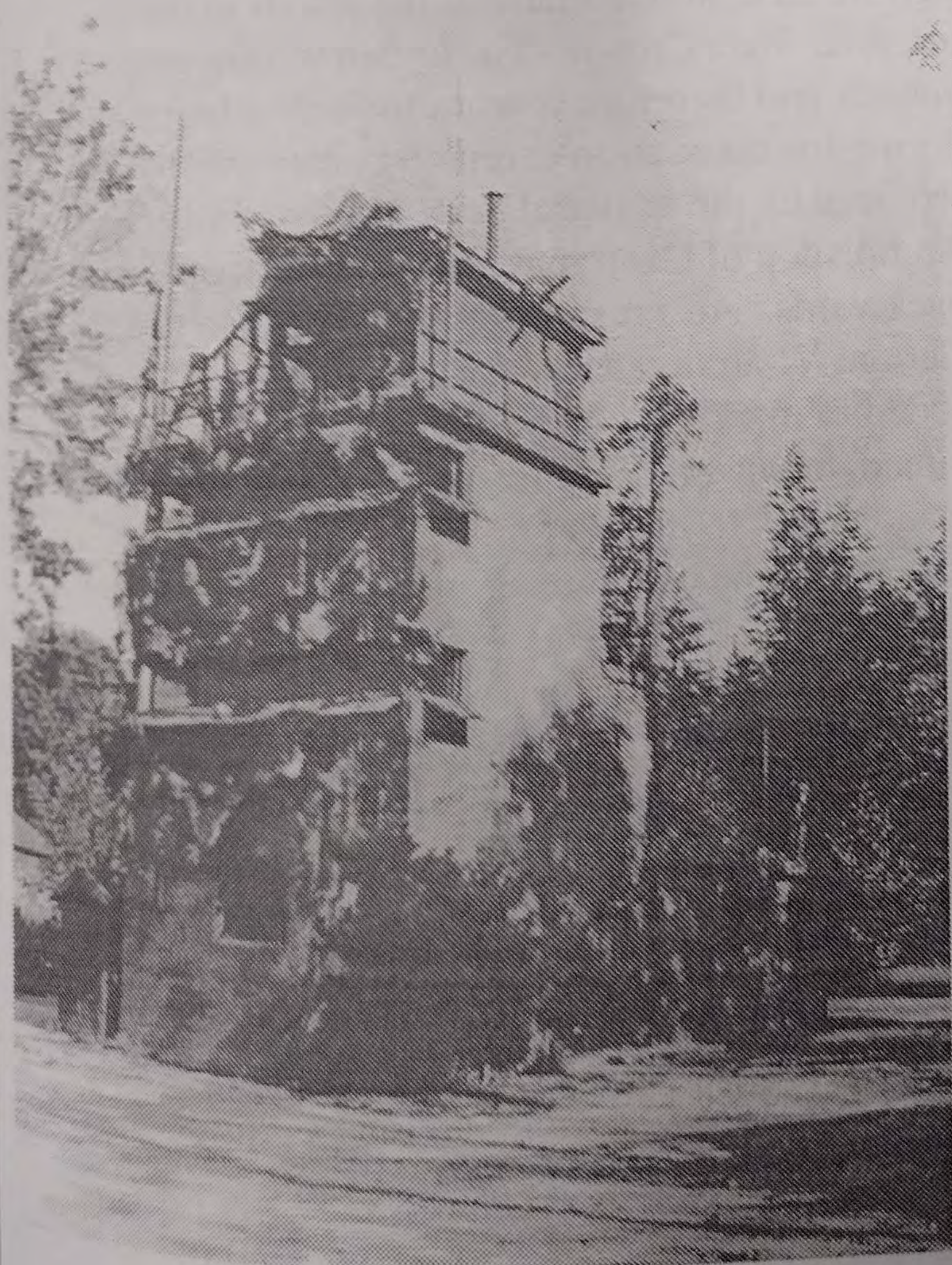
Looking down the upper hall towards the original entrance.



Looking down the upper hall towards the original entrance., now buried



BOP with ELO building to the right. The CP is behind the first row of windows, the op behind the second. The top level is the Signals Hut.



The BOP looking from the South East

shortly after the outbreak of war and air photos taken at the time showed it to be very effective.

In 1942, DND decided to up gun York Island to make it more effective but no large guns were available at the time so Stanley Park Fort's 6 inch guns were exchanged with York Islands 4.7 inch guns.

The fort was placed in maintenance in 1944 and finally closed as a defence area in September, 1945.

After the equipment was removed, the concrete emplacements were gutted, the wooden buildings (except for the Officers' Quarters which became the Tea House) were torn down and the two gun emplacements along with the magazine were left in place and covered over with dirt.

Early this year, the Vancouver Parks Board opened the hatch over the ammunition hoist area of the main magazine and invited LCol Vic Stevenson and a camera crew from Shaw's community service channel to take a tour. The camera crew made a short video of the tour but it doesn't show much as the lower level had flooded to a depth of 6-8 feet. A copy of the video tape is available at the museum for viewing and should be available shortly on CD.

Thanks to Maj P Moogk and LCol V Stevenson for pictures and information.

Coming Events

Mark your calendars! Here are some important dates for upcoming Regimental and Mess activities. Further details will be published in the next newsletter.

19 Sep 03 – Royal Canadian Artillery Association AGM: Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt. The AGM format includes a symposium day “Artillery to 2020” with a number of speakers of note from Canada and the USA. See page 1.

20 Sep 03 – RCAA AGM and Guest Night - CFB Esquimalt

28 Sep 03 - Police Memorial Parade and Gun Salute. Stanley Park, Brockton Oval, 1100hrs

19 Oct 03 – Ladies Dining In (Officers’ Mess)
Contact the PMC, Maj Dan Kuhn.
\$75 per couple / \$ 40.00 each

11 Nov 03 21 Gun Remembrance Day Salute:
at Portside Park/Crab Park north side Commissioner Street East of Heliport 1100 hrs; Roll Past on Hastings Street. Guests welcome to all messes.

6 Dec 03 Annual Saint Barbara’s Day Dinner
The annual Saint Barbara’s Day Special Guest Night is being held at in Bessborough Armoury on 6 Dec 03. Dinner at 1900hrs. \$70.00 per person.
Contact Maj Dan Kuhn.

7 Dec 03 Children’s Christmas Party.
1300-1700hrs

14 Dec 03 CO’s Tea. 1300-1700hrs.
\$20 per couple.

1 Jan 04 – New Year’s Day Levee. 1130hrs
Officers’ Mess Bessborough Armoury.

2 Feb 04 –15th Field Regiment RCA 84th Birthday.

14 Feb 04 – Ladies Dining Out

6 Mar 04 – Band of the 15th Field Regt RCA Annual Special Guest Night.

29 May 04 – 59th Annual Military Ball at Hyatt Regency.

WEDNESDAY LUNCHEONS

Mrs Lum and her crew continue to serve excellent lunches in the Mess every Wednesday but our numbers are dropping. We need to serve a minimum of 25 lunches every Wednesday to keep them viable and we have dipped below that number several times recently. We urge all members to make an effort to attend and bring some guests, especially those that might become members themselves. Remember also, that Ladies are always welcome. The CO allows dress regulations to be relaxed during July/August so that members may remove their jackets but, as of Sept 1st, jacket and tie are required. Members are responsible to see that their guests are properly attired. Hope to see you there.

THE ST EDWARD’S CROWN

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The current St Edward’s Crown is made of gold and set with jewels, none of which has any particular significance, unlike many of the jewels in the Imperial State Crown. The crown weighs about five pounds and therefore is worn for only a few minutes during the coronation ceremony, after which it is replaced by the Imperial State Crown. In 1911, the Archbishop of Canterbury set it on George V’s head backwards. As a result, for his coronation in 1938, George VI arranged to have a piece of red thread added to mark the correct way round. This piece of thread, however, disappeared and the same error was made, much to the chagrin of the Archbishop, who blamed “some officious person” for having removed the thread. In 1953, the Queen arranged to have two stars placed on the crown to facilitate the correct placement of the crown on her head at her coronation.



Tudor Crown



St Edward’s Crown

as depicted on badges, crests and flags