



# 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, RCA Museum and Archives



The **Stanley Park Fort** was originally built on Ferguson Point as a World War II coastal gun battery with two 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Guns on Mark II(L) Garrison Mountings. Later in the war, these were swapped with the two 4.7-Inch Quick Firing Mark IV "B" Guns on Mark III Garrison Carriages from Yorke Island.

The **Stanley Park Fort** was surrounded by barbed wire and camouflaged to prevent detection from the sea and air. A 60" coastdefence searchlight was

mounted in concrete and is used today as the lookout at Siwash Rock. The **Stanley Park Fort** was garrisoned by the 31st Heavy Battery, 15th (Vancouver) Coast Brigade, RCA. A Non-Permanent Army Militia unit, it was mobilized on 25 August 1939, 15 days before Canada declared war on Germany, to man the still incomplete installation. The Fort grew to include support buildings which included messing and recreation facilities. The Ferguson Point Teahouse was originally the Officers' Mess.

**Stanley Park** originated in its present form in 1886 when Vancouver city council successfully sought a lease of the park which was granted for \$1 per year. It had been set aside by the Federal government as a military reserve which allowed for its use as a military installation in both World Wars.

The **15th Field Artillery Regiment Museum and Archives** preserves and presents the history of the diverse Canadians that have served and are serving in The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery in British Columbia. It is located at Bessborough Armoury, 2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver, BC.





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The **Narrows North Fort** was located near the north end of Lions Gate Bridge and was built in 1939 as a defence against Motor Torpedo Boats attempting to enter Vancouver Harbour. On top of the three-storey concrete structure were two 12 pounder guns and an observation post. The 12-pounder Quick Firing guns each had a caliber of 3" (76mm) and were mounted on Mark 1 Garrison Carriages. The guns fired a variety of projectiles: high explosive (HE), armour-piercing and solid steel.

In and around the fort there were three 60" coast artillery searchlights, two Vickers machine guns and soldiers of the 1st Searchlight Regiment and 31st and 58th Coast Artillery Batteries. The soldiers were all members of the Non-Permanent Active Militia and they were mobilized on 25 August 1939, fifteen days before Canada declared war on Germany. The fort and the adjacent wooden army buildings were protected by barbed wire on the landward side of the site.

The fort was part of the integrated defence of Vancouver harbor and maintained constant communication with Stanley Park Fort, Point Grey Fort, Point Atkinson Fort and the Wadsley Fire Command Post (West Vancouver).

*This fort was demolished in the 1970s.*

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The **Yorke Island Fort** was originally built as a World War II coastal gun battery with two 4.7-Inch Quick Firing Mark IV "B" Guns on Mark III Garrison Carriages. These were replaced later in the war with two 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Guns on Mark II(L) Garrison Mountings. A six pounder Hotchkiss was used as an examination gun, firing bring to rounds for boats that failed to properly identify themselves.

**Yorke Island** was surrounded by barbed wire and three 60" coast defence searchlights were mounted in concrete emplacements. Anti-aircraft defence consisted of 40 mm Bofors and machine guns.

The **Yorke Island Fort** was garrisoned by the 85th Heavy Battery, 15th (Vancouver) Coast Brigade, RCA. A Non-Permanent Army Militia unit, it was mobilized on 25 August 1939, 15 days before Canada declared war on Germany, to man the still incomplete installation. The Fort grew to include support buildings which included messing and recreation facilities for some 300 officers and men. Personnel were regularly rotated with those in Stanley Park and Point Grey.

**BC Parks** acquired the Island as a Conservancy and is partnered with the **Vancouver Artillery Association** on a goal of creating a facility open to the public that maintains the current sense of personal discovery.

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The **Point Grey Fort** was originally built as a World War II coastal gun battery with three 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Guns on Mark II(L) Garrison Mounting. Each gun emplacement had its own underground magazine with electrical ammunition elevator and were connected through concrete tunnels. A six pounder Hotchkiss was used as an examination gun, firing bring to rounds for boats that failed to properly identify themselves.

On the beach there were two 60” coast defence searchlights mounted in concrete towers. Anti-aircraft defence consisted of 40 mm Bofors and machine guns.

The **Point Grey Fort** was garrisoned by the 58th Heavy Battery, 15th (Vancouver) Coast Brigade, RCA. A Non-Permanent Army Militia unit, it was mobilized on 25 August 1939, 15 days before Canada declared war on Germany, to man the still incomplete installation. The Fort grew to include support buildings which included messing and recreation facilities for some 250 officers and men. A detachment of the 58th Battery also manned the Steveston Battery at the mouth of the Fraser River.

The **UBC Museum of Anthropology** was built on top of the central number 2 gun emplacement and is flanked on either side by the number 1 and number 3 emplacements.

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