



Vancouver Artillery Association

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



Yorke Island Docent Package

The Docent Package is intended as a resource for those volunteering at the Hanlamd'i Makola/Yorke Island Conservancy. This role is a part of the Volunteer Partnership Agreement that is in effect between BC Parks and the Vancouver Artillery Association that allows for the delivering of educational workshops and seminars, which may include guided walks or interpretive tours.

Location

Yorke Island is situated off the most westerly point of Hardwicke Island at the divide between Johnstone Strait and Sunderland Channel. Hanlamd'i Makola/Yorke Island Conservancy is 68 km northwest of Campbell River, 75 km northwest of Cape Mudge and 248 km northwest of Vancouver. It is an area of 39 hectares or 96 acres and rises to an elevation of 72 meters (236 feet).

We acknowledge that the Conservancy is part of the traditional lands of the K'omoks First Nation, We Wai Kai First Nation, Wei Wai Kum First Nation and Xwemalhkwa (Homalco) First Nation

Safety

The Island is ringed with barbed wire that was installed during the Second World War. Much of the barbed wire is overgrown by dense foliage and difficult to locate. The building remnants are not stabilized. They are dangerous and unsafe to enter. Visitors are asked to remain on the main trail, as there are numerous hazards. Visitors are asked to not remove, damage or disturb any artifacts or buildings on this historic site.

Wildlife

Bald eagles and ravens are some of the birds often found on Yorke Island. They can usually be seen from the No.2 gun emplacement as they use the afternoon breeze to demonstrate their amazing, gliding ability. Deer, river otters and mice have been residents and a black bear, swimming from Hardwicke Island, has been seen on occasion. It appears that the black bear often swims across from Hardwicke Island whenever a certain grizzly swims over to that island. There have been no reported sightings of the grizzly following to Yorke. The snails and crickets residing in the dark areas within the fort should be left safely in their habitat. Orcas and Humpback Whales, as well as pods of porpoises, frequently pass through the channel.

Short History

Major BDC Treatt, an instructor at the British Coast Artillery School, was sent to Canada in 1936 at the request of National Defence Headquarters to review the situation on the east and west coasts. The Treatt Report recommended an *Ultimate Plan* of coast defences, however, the manufacturing in England was severely overburdened and an *Interim Plan* was adopted in 1937. The report highlighted the strategic advantage of Yorke Island for the defense of Vancouver from northern approaches, and recommended that it should be armed.

Construction was commenced in 1937 with the installation of two 4.7-Inch Quick Firing Mark IV "B" Guns on Mark III Garrison Carriages the following year. These guns were replaced by two 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Guns and enclosed with the plastic armour protection in 1943. The Yorke Island Fort was closed in 1945 when it went into a period of 'care and maintenance' under a resident caretaker, until it was finally decommissioned sometime between 1952 and 1956. It was at this time the 6" guns were removed and the island was abandoned.

Of the nearly sixty structures that were constructed at Yorke Island between 1937 and 1945, only twenty-six of these were scheduled 'to remain' in Department of National Defence drawings from 1945, while the rest were 'to be disposed of by War Assets'. Seventeen of these structures survive today.

Buildings

Many of the remaining buildings on Yorke Island have been marked with a QR Code as shown in the following short descriptions. The code links to a www.vancouvergunners.ca webpage that provides additional details. The first code in the series guides you to a Yorke Island welcome page.



Maps and Aerial Views



1A – Pacific Coast Defences. Identifies the coastal defences at Victoria-Esquimalt, Steveston, Vancouver, Yorke Island and Prince Rupert. Shows the northern and southern approaches to Vancouver. Yorke Island is situated off the most westerly point of Hardwicke Island at the divide between Johnstone Strait and Sunderland Channel, 68 km northwest of Campbell River, 75 km northwest of Cape Mudge and 248 km northwest of Vancouver. The island is 39 hectares or 96 acres in size.

1B – Map of Johnstone Strait. Provides a view of the narrow Johnstone Strait which Yorke Island covered.



1C – Yorke Island Aerial Photo. This photo was taken 15 May 1943, from 1000' looking East 125°58'30"W-50°26'45". It clearly shows the island's 39 hectares (96 acres) and its elevation of 72 meters (236 feet). The fort area, gymnasium, generator building and dock can be seen.

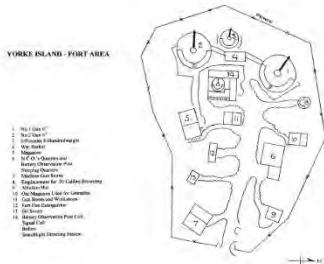
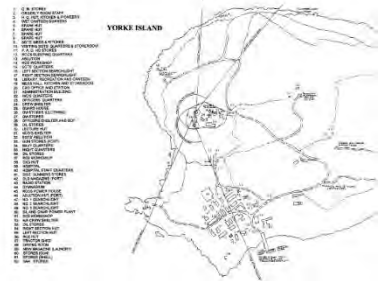
15FdMuseum994.27.01

1D - Yorke Island Aerial Photo. Another aerial photo taken 15 May 1943. It was also taken from 1000' looking NE 50°26'45"W-125°58'30"W. This view provides a clearer picture of the dock and the road leading up to the Fort area. *15FdMuseum985.59.08*



1E - Yorke Island 2018. This map was produced from a 1945 National Defense Army Fortifications and enhanced to portray the existing buildings. Comparison with the aerial photograph provides a view of the construction efforts that had taken place during the Second World War.

1F – Yorke Island 1944. This map provides a listing of the buildings that existed on Yorke Island circa 1944. It also provides the arcs of fire for both of the 6” guns. *15FdMuseum*



1G – Yorke Island 1944. This map focuses in on the buildings that existed in the Fort area circa 1944. *15FdMuseum*

Dock

The main feature of the Yorke Island Fort was the dock on the southern (predominantly leeward) side of the island. It was from here that men, construction materials, ammunition and other supplies could be transferred from boats onto shore, and then distributed to various parts of the island by truck and tractor. Remnants of the pilings and the wooden supports at the foreshore remain.



2A – Dock Construction. The pile driver barge is in position and working on the construction of the dock in 1938/39. *15FdMuseum989.154.57*





2B – Dock Construction. This photo provides a view of the dock area circa 1938/39. The dock boards have yet to be installed and it appears that the ground is being prepared for the Officers’ Quarters. The existing buildings appear to be short term construction sheds. *15FdMuseum989.154.56*

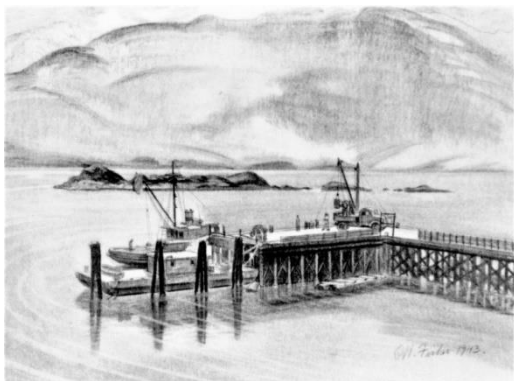


2C – Dock Area. The dock floorboards have been completed and there is a quantity of rebar ready to be used on the next concrete job. The Officers’ Quarters foundation is being worked on. *15FdMuseum989.154.55*



2D – Dock. The photo is dated January 1940 and the dock has lumber stacked ready to be moved onto the island for the next building project. *15FDMuseum997.15.1.993F*

2E – Completed Dock. The view looking south towards Hardwicke Island. *15FdMuseum985.88.133*



2F – Completed Dock. Orville Fisher’s drawing was sketched during the rotation of the 4.7” guns for the 6” guns from Stanley Park in June/July 1942. Stores are unloaded at the wharf from the supply boat on the far side; the water scow and examination boat are moored on the left *CanadianWarMuseumCWM12564*



2G – Waiting for the Rotation 1. An undated photo showing a large crowd waiting for a vessel to dock. This may be part of the following series of photos. *15FdMuseum985.88.038*

2H – Waiting for Rotation 2. Undated photo but appears to be early in the war based on the uniforms worn on the soldiers and the condition of the Officers' Quarters. It appears to show the island residents awaiting a vessel to dock.

15FdMuseum004.061.003



2I – Waiting for Rotation 3. Boat arrives with new contingent of soldiers. Unknown date. Shows the difference in uniform standards between those that have been on Yorke for a length of time and the newly arrived.

2J – Parade on the Dock. Undated photo appears to show the arrival of a new contingent which is formed up on the dock receiving their orders.



Officers' Quarters

The Officers' Quarters (also used later as Warrant Officers' Quarters and caretakers residence) is easily identified in the photographs from the dock. It is hoped that this building can be restored as decent accommodation in the future.





3A – Officers' Quarters circa 1941. Building is still painted white. Construction material stacked on dock. Appears to be visiting dignitaries. *15FdMuseum985.88.091*

3B – Officers' Quarters circa 1945. The Officers' Quarters has been painted in a darker colour, possibly for camouflage reasons. The cement staircase and wooden cribbing on the foreshore are still evident today. *15FdMuseumRE.84.1087*



3C – Officers' Quarters. The Battery Sergeant Master holds the ladder for a Gunner attending to roof maintenance. *15FdMuseum985.88.042*

3D – Officers' Quarters. This photo may be connected to the War Diary entry of 10 Sep 1939, "On draining large tank found decomposed rodents. M.O. considers tank not suitable under present conditions." *15FdMuseum994.26.04*



Fort Area

The Fort was a restricted area on the island, surrounded by fencing. A considerable amount of the fencing is still evident today.



4A – Fort Area Gate. Date unknown. Provides a view into the restricted Fort area housing the two guns.

4B – Fort Area gate. Date unknown. A view from the Fort area looking outwards. Two unidentified soldiers delivering items via wheelbarrow past a third soldier on guard duty. *15FdMuseum985.88.153*



4C – Fort Area. Date unknown. The following structures are visible. The old ammunition magazine, ablution hut, machine gun stores, oil stores and gun store/workshop. *15FdMuseumRE.84.1082*

Gun Emplacements

The original guns were two 4.7-Inch Quick Firing Mark IV "B" Guns on Mark III Garrison Carriages. They were originally mounted at Halifax, Nova Scotia and were given to Canada on the handover of the Halifax Fortress in 1905. Their rate of fire was ten rounds per minute by day and eight by night. Maximum range was 11,800 yards (10,790 meters) although the effective range with automatic sights was usually half of that.

These guns were replaced by two 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Guns and enclosed with the plastic armour protection in 1943. This replacement was an exchange as the 6 inch guns had originally been installed at the Stanley Park Fort. These guns had been deemed obsolete by the late thirties but there was little prospect of receiving upgrades in the near future so they were quickly moved out from Halifax and from Quebec City where they had been installed since World War I.

The maximum range was 12,000 yards (10,970 meters) and the weight of the shell was 100 lbs (45.4 kg). The protection consists of modular panels of plastic armor composed of precast bitumen and aggregate slabs (plates) and retained by metal flanges that are bolted to the steel frame.

The mounting plates for the 6-pounder Hotchkiss can be found between the two 6-inch emplacements. The 6-pounder was used as a more economical means of firing bring-to rounds to assist the examination vessels.



5A - 4.7-Inch Quick Firing Mark IV "B" Gun. This photo shows the #1 gun mounted on a Mark III Garrison Carriage. The gun is protected by a concrete wall and the ammunition under the platform is protected with doors.





5B - 4.7-Inch Quick Firing Mark IV "B" Gun. This photo shows the #2 gun with 2 projectiles and a casing ready. The #1 gun is hidden under a camouflage net. *15FdMuseum985.88.185, 984.73.9n, 994.25.12*

5C - 4.7-Inch Quick Firing Mark IV "B" Gun. This photo appears to show the detachment receiving a lesson on gun drill on the #1 gun. There are no covers visible under the platform.



5D - 4.7-Inch Quick Firing Mark IV "B" Gun. This photo appears to show the #2 gun. There are no covers visible under the platform. The gun is covered with a gun tarp due to the inclement weather.

5E - 4.7-Inch Quick Firing Mark IV "B" Gun. No.1 gun June 1941. Clarence Island and Fanny Island can be seen to the left front. Clarence Island seems quite barren of trees and this photo may have been taken shortly after it was decided that they were creating a blind spot. Today, Fanny Island contains an automated weather station. *15FdMuseum004.61.02*



6I - 4.7-Inch Quick Firing Mark IV "B" Gun Detachment. The detachment stands behind their camouflaged gun position with the Fort mascot-George. *15FdMuseum985.88.186, 984.73.9d, 994.25.03*

6A - 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Gun. The photo appears to depict the period when the 4.7" guns were replaced by the 6" guns that had previously been mounted in the Stanley Park Fort. This dates the photo as June/July 1942



6B - 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Gun. The #1 gun is shown sometime after the overhead protective cover has been installed. The cover was a steel structure with large blocks of plastic armour added on. Note the camouflage paint.

6C - 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Gun. The #2 gun. It appears to have been photographed at the same time as the 6B photo. Note the camouflage painted on the overhead cover. *15FdMuseumRE.84.1113*



6D - 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Gun. The #2 gun shown from a distance includes a view of the 6 pounder Hotchkiss gun which was intended to be used as the stopping gun firing bring to rounds.

6E - 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Gun. Unknown date. Clarence Island and Fanny Island can be clearly seen.





6F - 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Gun. Interior view shows the shell compartments with steel doors.

6G - 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Gun. Interior view shows two rounds ready plus some detail on the communications speaker and phone system. *15FdMuseumRE.84.1110*



6H - 6-Inch Breech Loading Mark VII Gun. Interior view of #2 gun shows additional detail on the ammunition storage recesses and the support structure for the plastic armour system. *15FdMuseumRE.84.1081*



6I – The Fort. View from offshore shows both #1 and #2 gun emplacements as well as the Battery Observation Post.



7A – 6 Pounder, 8 hundredweight Hotchkiss Gun. This gun was the standard examination service enforcer in the Coast Artillery Forts. It could fire 25 rounds per minute with a muzzle velocity of 1,818 feet per second (554 m/s) and an effective firing range of 4,000 yards (3,700 m).

7B – 6 Pounder, 8 hundredweight Hotchkiss Gun. The Yorke Island examination gun was mounted on a concrete pad forward and between the two main guns. Clarence Island can be clearly seen from this vantage point.



8A - War Shelter

The War Shelter, often referred to as Crew Shelter, offered protection for the detachment replacements that were waiting to relieve the on-duty detachment should they be wounded or killed. *15FdMuseum997.001.083A*



Battery Observation Post

The Fire Command Post, also referred to as the Searchlight Directing and Battery Observation Post, or simply the 'BOP', went through several upgrades through the war. The current structure was constructed with the arrival of the 6" guns and consists of the Port War Signal Station to communicate with the examination vessels in the strait which intercepted passing ships. The Searchlight Directing Station in the BOP coordinated the beams of the three searchlights to illuminate the passage at night. Officers in the BOP directed the guns and a Naval Signals Station monitored maritime traffic. A Bofors 40-mm anti-aircraft gun was later placed on the BOP's roof.



9A – Battery Observation Post. The Battery Observation Post was also referred to as the Fire Command Post or Searchlight Directing and Battery Observation Post or simply as the BOP. The Yorke Island BOP This photo is from the end of the war and features a 40mm anti-aircraft position on the rooftop.



9B – Battery

Observation Post. This iteration of the BOP was the result of constructing a communications room on the top level. *15FdMuseum985.88.184*

9C – Battery Observation Post. The original BOP, constructed in 1938, is shown in this photo.



9D – Battery Observation Post. The original BOP featured a manual, visual signaling device to coordinate the fire of the guns should communication fail. *15FdMuseum985.88.012*

9E – Battery Observation Post. The simple ‘clock’ device provides a means for the Battery Commander to provide accurate information to the guns. However, it’s actual function is not clear. It’s believed that the large outer number is the range in thousands of yards and the inner small numbers represent hundreds of yards. The ‘S’ (Short) and ‘L’ (Long) provide information on the fall of shot of the previous round fired. *15FdMuseum985.88.083*



9F – Battery Observation Post Depression Range Finder. Orville Fisher’s drawing shows the Depression Range Finder (DRF) in use in the BOP. It is mounted on a concrete pedestal and provides essential information for aiming the guns. *Canadian War Museum CWM12471*

9G – Battery Observation Post Depression Range Finder. The DRF in place on Yorke Island. *15FdMuseum985.88.172*





9H – Searchlight Controls. The direction and elevations of the searchlights were controlled from the BOP circa 1943 and later. *15FdMuseum997.001.082A*



9I – Battery Observation Post.
15FdMuseum997.001.099A



9J – Battery Observation Post.
15FdMuseum997.001.093A

9K – Battery Observation Post. Another Orville Fisher drawing shows the signalers on duty in the BOP.



9L – Battery Observation Post. The detachment taking a break outside the BOP. *15FdMuseum985.88.085*

Machine Gun Stores

The Machine Gun Store dates from the earliest phase of the battery. It is a simple brick-made building consisting of two interconnected rooms with a suspended wood floor. It was used to secure and maintain the weapons required for the local defence of Yorke Island. The defence was initially manned by a platoon of the 2nd Battalion (MG), Canadian Scottish Regiment. Later in the war, local defence was provided by the gunners and, eventually, by a Veterans' Guard platoon.



Gun Stores and Workshop

The Gun Stores and Workshop also dates from the earliest phase of the battery. It is a simple, brick-made building consisting of two interconnected rooms with a suspended wood floor. It was used to repair and maintain the coastal guns. A team of artificers held sufficient spare parts to ensure that the guns could remain in action. This was critical for a fort far from its support base..



10A – Gun Stores and Workshop – The unique tools and parts required to maintain the guns can be seen laid out on the workbenches. *15FdMuseum997_002_004A*

10B – Gun Stores and Workshop – The workshop was well stocked with tools and equipment as it was a considerable distance to the nearest supply depot. *15FdMuseum997_001_095A*



11A- New Ammunition Magazine

The New Magazine is a substantial engineering work that was constructed from concrete in 1943 when the guns were exchanged. It consists of two ammunition wells that originally held mechanical lifts plus two shell storerooms. Some of the original heavy steel doors are still in place and operable. The shell stores contain some of the timber columns that formed the original structure of the shell storage system.



Searchlight Emplacements

There were three searchlight towers on Yorke Island. A curved, concrete enclosure and roof sheltered the 5-foot (1.5 meters) diameter searchlights. These structures had wooden sliding doors at the rear and sliding, metal shutters on the front. The lights have been removed but the service conduit and holdfasts remain in the concrete floor.



12A – Searchlight Emplacement. Three searchlights were installed on Yorke Island. The enclosures had sliding metal shutters at the front and large wooden doors at the rear.



12B – Searchlight Emplacement. The intent of the searchlights was to highlight enemy vessels for the guns to range in on. They were also used as defence outposts with sandbagged positions on the roof such as this .50 cal machine gun position on #2 searchlight.



12C – Searchlight Emplacement. The searchlight emplacements were originally manned by members of the 1st Searchlight Regiment RCA. The unit was subsequently disbanded and the members, and responsibilities, were absorbed by the 15th (Vancouver) Coast Brigade, RCA.
15FdMuseum985.88.032



12D – Searchlight Emplacement. Each emplacement was equipped with a 60-inch Canadian General Electric Type B searchlight with 800, 000 candlepower each.
15FdMuseum994.25.07

12E – Searchlight Emplacement. The searchlights were reportedly bright enough to allow someone in Kelsey Bay to read their newspaper at night.
15FdMuseum994.26.02



The Camp

Most of the camp buildings were bought by locals during the post-war decommissioning of the Fort. They were pulled to the waters edge and barged to their new locations at Hardwicke Island, Sayward, and Port Kusam. The gymnasium was reportedly too large to remove. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire sometime in the 1960s.



13A – Camp Area Construction. Civilian contractors and military personnel were employed in the construction of the wooden buildings in the camp area. *15FdMuseum985.88.114*

13B – Camp Area. The camp buildings were simply-made from locally-available materials, with very few specially imported components such as door hardware, window sashes and woodstoves. Typically, these were clad in either shiplap or tar-paper with battens, and fitted with site-made joinery and doors.
15FdMuseum985.88.010



13C – Camp Area. The buildings shown are believed to be the QM Stores (27), RCE Workshop (14) and the Orderly Room (2).
15FdMuseum985.88.037

13D – Camp Area. The buildings shown are believed to be the CXO Office and Station (20), Administration Building (21) and the corner of the WO's Quarters. *15FdMuseum997.001.092A*



13E – Camp Area. Another view of the Administration Building (21) and the CXO Office and Station (20).



13F – Camp Area. Unknown building and area of the camp. *15FdMuseumRE.84.1091*



13G – Camp Area. Unknown building and area of the camp. The L junction of the building suggests that it is either the Officers' Quarters (23) or the Mess Hall, Kitchen and Storeroom (19) *15FdMuseumRE.84.1090*

13H – Camp Area. Artefacts, including photographs, often present a confusing puzzle to decipher. Sometimes the negative has been flipped before printing. Is that the case with this photo? *15FdMuseumRE.84.1090reversed*





13I - Camp Area. Unidentified buildings.
15FdMuseumRE.84.1089

13J – Camp Area. The Officers’ Quarters (23).
15FdMuseumRE.84.1094



13K – Camp Area. The location was not identified on the photo but it is believed to be the Library, Recreation and Canteen Building (18).
15FdMuseum985.88.119



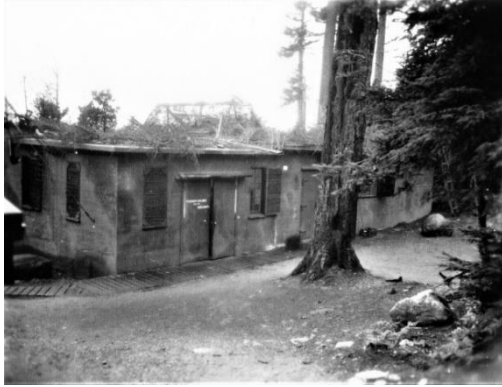
13L – Camp Area. Location not identified but believed to be one of the Accommodation Huts (16), (17), (54), or (55). A rifle rack with 6 or 8 weapons is evident as well as benches, tables and a wall shelf for personal items.
15FdMuseum985.88.113



Generator Building

This two-room concrete structure contained the electrical power plant. It was built in two phases. The larger of the two rooms (and the first to be constructed) housed four, diesel-powered, electrical generators on concrete foundations with service channels cast into the concrete slab floor. One was a standby engine to maintain the flow of electricity whenever another engine was being serviced or had failed.





14A – Generator Building. Also known as Powerhouse as evidenced by the sign on the door. Branches have been placed on the roof for camouflage. The building was built in two phases.

14B – Generator Building. The original generator was considerably smaller. *15FdMuseum985.88.018*



14C – Generator Building. Another early view of the generator building. *15FdMuseum985.88.056*



Wireless Telegraph Station

The Wireless Telegraph Station was in a protected location at the bottom of a small bluff. Despite its isolated location, it served an important role by connecting a network of electrical and radio services, both internally on the island and for external communications. The building was linked to a radio mast, now gone, on the hill directly south of the concrete water tank. The mast could broadcast signals to locations far from the island. It also would have received the first warning of an attack coming from the north.



Cistern

The water cistern is a 50,000 gallon capacity fresh water tank located in a saddle between hills at the south central part of the island. Its function was to provide fresh water to the buildings of the camp, the hospital and the generator building. It is connected to a fresh water distribution network of clay tile and cast iron pipes. It is an imposing, concrete structure whose tank of two foot thick walls enclosed a fifteen foot deep water tank. The two, remaining interior columns originally supported a wooden cover. The west wall has a steel, rung ladder



for access to the interior. This tank was periodically refilled by a barge bringing water from Hardwicke Island.

15A - Bofors 40 mm Anti-Aircraft position



Two Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft guns were positioned on the island in June 1942. One was installed on the roof of the Battery Observation Post with the second located on the Island's highest elevation. The 40mm Bofors Light Anti-Aircraft gun was a Swedish design that was in Canadian service from 1941-1959. It had a range of 10,800 yards with a 5,000 feet effective ceiling. The projectiles weighed 2 pounds.

Photo shows Sgt A.E. "Doc" Livock, 30th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RCA



Sunderland Post

Sunderland Post is one of three listening posts located around the perimeter of the island. It is a small two room log-built structure very different from other buildings on the island. It has an irregular plan consisting of a small rectangular main room with windows on side walls and a door on the landward gable end, and the triangular front room facing the water. The landward room had a stove and furniture for basic operations, while the seaward room appears to have been used for monitoring and observation. The post has been rebuilt to replicate the original.



Courtenay Bay Post

Courtenay Bay Post was the northeastern most listening post. The original Courtenay Bay Post was located on the southern side of the bay and appears to have been a fortification in the form of a low pillbox constructed from sand bags and logs. Courtenay Bay post controls the northeastern approach to the island and was connected to the other perimeter posts by an inland trail. Like the other coastal observation posts and lights, electricity was provided to these posts and some remains of the network survive on site.



16A – Listening Post. One of the sandbagged positions located at either Gunners Post or Courtenay Bay Post.
RossKellerDJ01

Gunners Post

Gunners Post was the southeastern most listening post. Gunners Post controlled this approach to the island and was connected to the other perimeter posts by an inland trail. Like the other coastal observation posts and lights, electricity was provided to these posts and some remains of the network survive on site.

16B – Listening Post. Another view of one of the sandbagged positions located at either Gunners Post or Courtenay Bay Post. *RossKellerDJ02*



16A – Group Photo.
15FdMuseum996.28.15

16B – Group Photo. Another photo in a somewhat more relaxed state. *15FdMuseum996.28.14*



16C – Small Group. This appears to be the kitchen area where a fish appears to be on the menu. The unit War Diaries writes often of the difficulties in providing nutritious supplies for the kitchen. Spoiled potatoes, spoiled milk and even a side of beef that was recovered after going overboard are some of the stories told. No complaints have been found of the quality that the cooks managed to prepare with the resources they were provided. *15FdMuseum 985.88.008*

Photo Collection

The laminated photo collection is a work in progress. The intent is to provide a guide to lead tours through Yorke Island and to provide an opportunity to see the island as it looked in the past. Each photo page has a short description on the reverse with room to add additional notes as required.

Conclusion

The Examination Service at Yorke Island ceased operation on 22 August 1945 and the Gunners were relieved of their duties the following day. However, it was not until 17 October 1945 that the island was vacated by the military.

The Hanlamd'i Makola/Yorke Island Conservancy is considered one of the principle post-contact heritage sites on northern Vancouver Island and is valued for its natural, historical, engineering and social/cultural values, in particular for its role in national defense prior to and during World War II. The conservation work to be completed on the Island will result in increased tourism and local employment, as well as a visitor experience that includes cultural awareness, educational and recreational opportunities. It will be a unique part of B.C.'s protected areas system in perpetuity.

The work is far from complete but major advances have been made to date in the provision of heritage conservation planning, interpretation and rehabilitation. The scope of work has included implementation of heritage conservation measures, and the start of stabilization efforts, improved access and safety.

Would you like to support our team?

Contact the Vancouver Artillery Association president – Leon Jensen president.vcrgunners@gmail.com