

DEFENDING OUR FORTRESS

Esquimalt Forts Withstand an Attack by Land and Sea.

Lieut.-Col. McKay Makes a Skillful Advance on Rod Hill.

An Instructive System of Manoeuvres and the Lessons It Taught.

The siege of Esquimalt, an episode that will live in the military annals of the province, terminated last evening shortly before 11 o'clock, when the mimic investment to which the fortress has been subjected was raised and the naval base of the North Pacific was relieved. The action, which practically lasted from daybreak until midnight yesterday, was unattended by loss of life, and the most serious attack of the day occurred at noon and at the evening when the bugles sounded "pick-up" and the whole brigade became simultaneously engaged in an onslaught on beef and potatoes. But the lessons of the manoeuvres will never fade from the memory of those who took part in them, and the operations will have the most important instructional effect upon the different corps which were detailed for the duty.

The whole scheme has been described in these columns so recently that it is unnecessary now to refer to them but briefly. The plan was to give to the different regiments, both regular and militia, practical tuition in the performance of duties which would inevitably fall upon them should Britain's station on the North Pacific ever be threatened by an armed force. Every portion of

C. R., under Col. McKay, had effected a landing there. It was from this section, as it afterwards proved, that the greatest danger had to be apprehended. Advancing from Albert Head, this invading force came in touch with the outposts of the garrison several miles from Rod Hill. A detached sentry of the Sixth was first overpowered, the man having in his possession a liberal number of rounds of ammunition, which afterwards became useful. Some distance nearer the fort a scouting party from the fortress was surrounded and compelled to surrender and fall in behind their captors. They were now nearing the position, and the little force moved with the greatest caution until they could discern ahead the sentries at the hill. Col. McKay, instead of assaulting the position from the front, executed a flank movement, and before the garrison had recovered from its surprise four volleys had been poured into them.

While strictly speaking this post, with its powerful searchlights, had fallen into the enemy's hands, the original programme was carried out later in the evening of employing Rod Hill as a garrison post. Repeated attempts were made by a tug boat, acting as a torpedo boat, to pass the mine field, but the never sleeping eye of the searchlights, sweeping the waters, located the craft and compelled it to desist. One of the torpedo boats acting as a patrol also scoured the sea for the enemy.

Thus ended the siege of Esquimalt, which while only of one day's duration, has formed a most valuable means of instructing the troops in the improvement and poorly understood problems of defence.

The Forces Engaged.
While the manoeuvres proper did not begin until Monday, the men were under canvas all day Sunday as well. It was midnight on Sunday when the Fifth marched in. They found that

Ackroyd and Lieut. Worsnop, 32 men. In addition to these there was 1 C. O., 3 majors, 2 surgeons, 4 captains, 7 lieutenants, 4 staff sergeants and 213 rank and file.

There were in all on parade 841 men of all ranks, under command of Lieut.-Col. Grant, R. E., and distributed as follows:

Warrant N.Co.'s Officers, Off. & Men.	
Royal Garrison Artillery	4
Royal Engineers	4
Army Services Corps	1
Royal Army Service Corps	3
A Co., 3rd R. C. R.	2
5th Regt. C. A.	1
6th Batt. Rifles	16
Total	44

During the forenoon on Monday the Sixth Rifles drilled in outpost duties, and in the afternoon and evening patrolled the coast line. Of the Fifth Regiment, Nos. 1 and 2 manned 6 field guns and fired 40 rounds; No. 5 Company, under Major Hibben, engaged in submarine mining, and Nos. 3, 4 and 6 manned the batteries at Macaulay Point. Cos. 1 and 2 deserve special praise, as they dragged three of the guns from Work Point to this hill and had them in position at 8.15 a.m.

Sunday in Camp.
A prettier sight than that presented by Macaulay Plains on Sunday would be hard to imagine. Looking from the bluffs above the Point the tented field appeared in the foreground, the troops drawn up in a hollow square lower down the slope, and beyond the sea as placid as glass made a complete picture. Thousands visited the camp and the soldier brothers, sons and sweethearts were kept busily employed in exhibiting the mysteries of the encampment to their friends in muff. At 3 o'clock a drum-beat services were conducted by Rev. C. Ensor Sharpe, the chaplain of the Fifth, who in a very brief and manly address drew a parallel between the obligations of a Christian and that of a soldier. "Onward Christian Soldiers" and other martial airs were played, the parade being concluded with the singing of the National Anthem, led by the band. At the conclusion of the service the band of the Fifth gave a sacred concert, and later in the day at seven the band of the Sixth gave a programme.

With the Attacking Force.
The chief interest of the manoeuvres centered about the operations on Rod Hill, which the public were unable to see. A rattle of musketry about 3 o'clock told that an engagement was in progress there, but it was not until some time later that the particulars of the fight were available.

Early in the forenoon "A" Company, 3rd R. C. R., under command of Lieut.-Col. McKay and Lieut. Clarke, proceeded by tug boat to Albert Head under sealed orders. Landing here the orders were opened, when, as was anticipated, it was learned that the little force was to march from that point along the Metehosin road. A start was made immediately and by mid-day the assaulting force had advanced to a point where it was no longer safe to follow the beaten road.

Ahead of them on the main road an outpost of almost fifty men were posted, while all the cross roads and paths were patrolled by two companies of the Sixth Rifles, under an Imperial officer. Probably one hundred men in all disputed the advance, part of the force being stationed at the lagoon while the others guarded every avenue of advance. With an attacking body miserably small, consisting of little more than forty men, Col. McKay had to negotiate the country before him, invested as it was by a hostile force. A council of war was held between the two officers, who had previously, through their scouts, obtained a fairly accurate idea of the disposition of the defending outposts. A company was divided into two, the order of the colonel being that his subaltern, if successful in piercing the investing force, was to effect a junction with the other half company under his own command, at the hill overlooking the Rod Hill batteries at 2.50.

Then the difficult portion of the advance began. For several hundred yards the men crawled on their hands and knees through the woods, fearful lest the breaking of a twig should betray their presence. This was soon passed, however, and nothing lay between them and Rod Hill but two or three isolated sentries and a non-commissioned officer's taken prisoners, and fell in rear of the company.

Promptly at ten minutes to three, having broken through the screen, the two forces again united, Lieut. Clarke bringing up a detachment of prisoners to swell the procession. In a few minutes the hill was mounted and 400 yards below them lay the batteries held by only a small force. Four smart volleys poured into the fort apprised the surprised garrison of their presence.

Held by a superior force and assisted by the batteries, the fort was of course impossible of capture, but the advance of the force to the point mentioned was most skillfully performed and reflected great credit on the Canadian regulars and the commanding officer.

The Lessons.
The entire system of operations proved, among other things, that the defence of Esquimalt would involve a much more extensive system of outposts than was the case yesterday. Part of the woods belonging to private parties would have to be included in the general scheme if the forts at Rod Hill are to enjoy immunity from surprise.

The tactics pursued were most instructive, especially to the Sixth Rifles, who, under their new organization, are to be employed largely as outposts and patrols. It is hoped that next year the work will be further rehearsed, and that a longer time will be set apart for it. The readiness with which the men adapted themselves to camp life and the practical experience they acquired in field work are two of the most noteworthy features of the mobilization. All the officers speak of the manoeuvres with the greatest degree of satisfaction.

president Surgeon-Major Hart of Victoria. The Sixth Rifles marched out of camp shortly before midnight last night and embarked for Vancouver.

Graciously Received

By the Governor-General and Countess of Minto Last Evening.

The Legislative Assembly Hall Presented a Brilliant Appearance.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)
The assembly hall in the noble pile across the bay, which until recently rang with the animated debates of legislators, was last evening the scene of a far different assemblage. The apartment in itself notably ornate, certainly presented a brilliant appearance, the occasion being the public full-dress reception by the Governor-General and Countess of Minto. Representative Victorians attended in fair numbers and were most graciously received by the viceregal party, who by pleasant intercourse contributed to the general unalloyed pleasure.

Shortly before the inauguration of the function, a large number assembled near the main entrance to the stately buildings, which were lighted from base to dome, the illuminations affording a beautiful spectacle. The guard of honor was composed of regulars of the Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery, and Fifth Regiment. The Governor-General and Lady Minto were seated on the Speaker's dais and there received most cordially the large number who were presented to them.

Many handsome gowns worn by the ladies, the dress suits of the gentlemen, and the brilliant uniforms of the officers with their martial splendor, commingled in making the scene one not easily forgotten by the votaries of Victoria society.

After the formal presentation the Governor-General and Lady Minto mingled with the various groups of guests, and before the proceedings were terminated all partook of a dainty repast.

The following were presented by the A. D. C. during the evening:
Mr. James R. Anderson, Mrs. James R. Anderson, F. Victor Austin, Mr. G. T. Alexander,
Mr. S. Baxter, Canon Beaudin, Rev. W. D. Barber, Mr. D. Burroughs, Mr. C. S. H. Baker, Mr. W. H. Barton, Mrs. Baiss, Miss Baiss, Miss Gladys Baiss,
Mr. Richard E. Cooper, Mrs. Richard E. Cooper, Bishop of Columbia, Mrs. Cridge, Miss Cridge, Miss Cressie, Mr. Lindley Cressie, Bishop Crige, Mr. Fred J. Claxton, Mrs. Claxton, Mr. Charles E. Clarke, Sir Henry Pellet Cressie,
Hon. Edgar Dewdney, Mrs. Dewdney, Mr. F. Napier Denison, Mr. Justice Tyrwhitt Drake, Major Dupont, Miss Dunsmeuir, Miss Tyrwhitt Drake,
Mr. Thomas Earle, Mrs. Thos. Earle, Miss Earle, Mr. G. E. Elliott, R.E.; Hon. D. M. Eberts, Mrs. D. M. Eberts, Mr. and Mrs. F. Elworthy, Mr. Frank H. Eaton,
Mr. E. H. Fletcher, Mrs. Everard H. Fletcher, Mrs. Chester Fairman Lee, Miss Fenner, Mr. Donald Fraser, Miss Fraser,
Mr. H. M. Grahame, Lieut.-Col. F. B. Gregory, Mr. B. Gordon, Mrs. B. Gordon, Mrs. J. L. Godson, Albert T. Godard, Miss Godard, Miss Muriel Godard, Mr. Benard G. Goward, R. E. Gosnell, Mr. Arthur Sinclair-Gore, Mr. Arch. J. C. Galletly,
Mayor Hayward, Mrs. Hayward, Mr. Gordon Hunter, Mrs. Gordon Hunter, Mr. Rout Harvey, Miss Harvey, Mrs. C. A. Holland, Staff-Surgeon P. B. Handyside, R.N.,
Miss Jesse, Dr. T. J. Jones, Mrs. T. J. Jones, Dr. O. M. Jones, Mrs. Arthur W. Jones, Major A. W. Jones, Mr. K. A. Johnston, Miss Munzie,
Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Ker, Mr. G. A. Kirk,
Miss Loewen, Mr. Charles F. Lee, Mr. Charles H. Lugin, Miss Nellie Lugin, Mr. J. Langmaid, R.N.; Mr. Henry Francis Langton,
Miss Macdonald, Captain Mitchell, A. R. Milne, C.M.G.; Mr. S. Macleure, Mrs. S. Macleure, E. B. McKay, C. P. Moore, Mr. Roderick Mackenzie, Hon. Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Albert E. McPhillips, Miss McIntyre, Lieut. W. M. Marston, R.N.; Mrs. Acher Martin, Mr. T. R. McInnes, Mrs. S. P. Moody, Mrs. Wm. McNeill, Miss Munzie,
Dr. Newcombe, Miss Nason, Miss Roberta Nason, Mrs. Edward C. Neufelder, Miss Perrin, Miss Patton, Mr. Edward B. Paul, Mr. Robert B. Powell, Mr. W. R. Parsons, R.N.; Mrs. E. O. Powell, Lieut.-Col. Prior, Mrs. Prior, Miss Prior, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Prentice,
Mr. E. Byrnes Reed, Capt. Mallcott Richardson, Mr. Sydney A. Roberts,
Rev. John Hales, Sweet and Mrs. Sweet, Abraham E. Smith, Mrs. Abraham E. Smith, Mr. M. Stephens R.N.; Mr. J. E. Scarlett, Mr. and Mrs. Ian St. Clair, Mr. C. Wentworth Sarel, Mrs. C. Wentworth Sarel, Mr. E. O. S. Schofield,
Mr. and Mrs. Tiarks, Hon. J. H. Turner, Mrs. J. H. Turner,
Mr. Vowell,
Hon. W. O. Wells and Mrs. Wells, Mr. S. Y. Wootton, Mrs. Stephen Y. Wootton, Major Wynne, R. A.; Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. E. E. Wootton, Lieut.-Col. R. Wolfenden, Dr. Alfred T. Watt,
Mr. Frederick E. Young, Mr. Charles A. Yorke.



LIEUT.-COL. GREGORY, Com. Fifth Regiment, C.A.

News From South Africa

Corporal O'Dell, Times Correspondent, Writes Another Letter.

Reported That Dickinson Has Obtained a Commission in Cape Mounted Rifles.

With the Royal Canadians, Springs, near Johannesburg, July 23rd, 1906.— Since my last letter to the Times our numerical strength has been considerably increased by several details arriving from the south to rejoin the regiment. All those at or above Bloemfontein are being sent up to us, and those below that point to Capetown.

There is a report in camp to-day that the Staffordshire Regiment (militia) will shortly relieve us. Stebbings rejoined us the day before yesterday, and is looking very well. He left the regiment at Windberg. Dickinson, it is reported, has obtained a commission in the Cape Mounted Rifles, and is at present in England. Wood, who has been laid up with a swollen knee for some ten days, is now much better.

The following is a list of the Victorians killed and the whereabouts of the others:
Lieut. Blanchard, Rhenoster, died of wounds.
Sergt. Northcott, Cape, not expected to rejoin; Sergt. Scott, Paardeberg, killed.
Corp. O'Dell, Springs, signaller.
Privates Anderson, Springs, duty man; Andrews, England, wounded; Paardeberg; Beach, England, wounded; Paardeberg; Brethour, Springs, duty man; Cartey, England, physically unfit; Court, Springs, signaller; Cornwall, Springs, duty man; Dickinson, England; Dixon, England, invalided; Finch-Simley, England, wounded; Paardeberg; Gamble, England; invalided; Jones, England, invalided; Leoman, Springfontein, O. R. Colony, in hospital, sick; Mandrell, Paardeberg, killed; Neill, Capetown, sick; Roberts, Springs, telegraph officer; Somers, Paardeberg, killed; Stebbings, Springs, duty man; Stewart, Capetown, physically unfit; Smithurst, Springs,

sick in hospital, progressing favorably; Todd, Paardeberg, killed; Wood, Springs, duty man.
Carter and Stewart came no further than Bloemfontein.
Since my last letter we have been issued warm khaki trousers, one shirt, one pair of socks, boots, mess tins and tobacco. SEYMOUR HASTINGS O'DELL.
Another letter from Corp. O'Dell, dated two days later, says that it was expected that 600 of the Canadians would have Capetown for England about August 12th. The baggage, tents and packs left at Bloemfontein had been forwarded to Capetown.

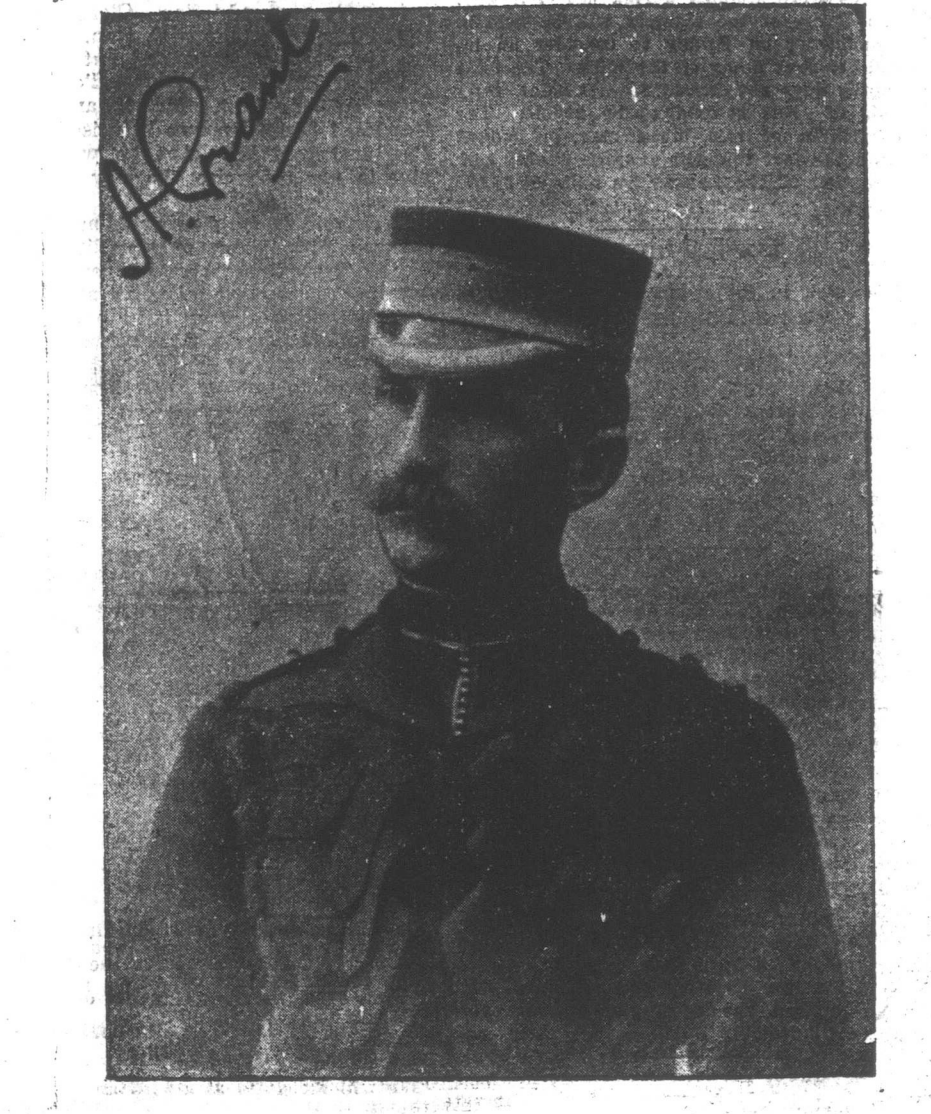
DONATION FROM DEASE RIVER

Received From Far Away Patriot in Aid of Widow and Orphan Fund.
Mayor Hayward has received the following self-explanatory letter from James Porter of Cassiar:
Telegraph Creek, Cassiar, B.C., 15th Aug. 1906.

His Worship Charles Hayward, Mayor of Victoria, B.C.:
Dear Sir—Pray me for troubling you, but as I have just received a small donation of \$10 for the relief fund for the support of the widows and children of our countrymen who have fallen in the war with the Boers from a friend of mine, Mr. Amos Everson, who is stationed at the mouth of McDame creek, on the Dease river, I am anxious to have the money placed at once where it is intended, hence my appeal for your aid in the matter.
In his letter to me, Mr. Everson modestly says: "It will give bread to some of the needy ones for a little while."
Kindly acknowledge receipt.
Thanking you in anticipation, I am faith fully yours,
JAMES PORTER, Cassiar.

KING WILL BE EXECUTED.

(Associated Press.)
Ottawa, Sept. 5.—Alex. King, who had trouble with Herbert Davenport over the floating of a scow near the White Horse rapids, shot and killed Davenport, was tried and sentenced to be executed on October 2nd, by Justice Craig at Dawson City. An order-in-council has been passed allowing the law to take its course, and King will be hanged at Dawson on the day appointed for the execution.



LIEUT.-COL. A. GRANT, R.E., Com. at Work Point.

the brigade was employed in the rehearsal of defensive tactics with the single exception of the company of Canadian regulars, which later in the day by an adroit attack on Rod Hill covered themselves with distinction, and proved that unceasing vigilance alone in matter military as well as civil is the price of safety.

To the defending forces a task of great difficulty was given when the small number of troops at the disposal of Col. Grant is taken into consideration. With a force of little over 800 men, with six field pieces, and with several batteries of six-inch guns, he was obliged to repel a supposed attack which might be launched from four different quarters. He had first of all to detach a force of engineers to destroy the bridges over Victoria harbor, for early in the day the enemy had effected a landing, and had taken possession of the city proper. The Engineers, under Lieut. Elliot, promptly blew up the bridges at Point Ellice, and also the railway bridge, thus minimizing the danger from that quarter, as the enemy's shipping was busily engaged in menacing Esquimalt harbor, and unable to give any attention to the transportation of forces from the city. The Gorge and Craigflower bridge came under the operation of the patrols from Rod Hill, and were regarded as impracticable. Safety from this quarter was therefore assured early in the day.

But there still remained the possibility of a direct assault from sea on Macaulay or on Rod Hill. To prevent surprise from this source the Sixth Battalion was organized into a patrol, extending like a screen along the shore line, from Hospital Point to the navy yard. During the day their duties were not onerous, as they had the assistance of six field guns, manned by Nos. 1 and 2 companies, Fifth Regiment, C. A., besides the batteries at Macaulay and the quick firing battery at Duntze Head. At Rod Hill a field force, consisting of the fortress detachment R. E., and two companies of the Sixth Rifles, were placed for the protection of the batteries there. At 11 o'clock the garrison was further augmented by the dispatch of two additional companies from the Sixth Rifles. This was rendered necessary by the disquieting news received from Albert Head that of the enemy, represented by "A" Company, 3rd R.

Captain and Quartermaster Hall had, with the assistance of four men from the Fifth and 10 from "A" Company, 3rd R.C.R., erected all the tents, had field kitchens built and otherwise arranged for the comfort of the men. Hot coffee awaited the men, too, and the sleep of the just when the tired men crept into their blankets.

The regiment paraded 266 strong, the force, in addition to band, buglers and seven staff officers, consisting of the following:
No. 1 Company—Major Munroe, 3 officers, 33 non-commission officers and men.
No. 2 Company—Capt. Foulkes, 3 officers, 33 non-commission officers and men.
No. 3 Company—Capt. McConnan, 2 officers, 37 non-commission officers and men.
No. 4 Company—Lieut. Grahame, 1 officer, 25 non-commissioned officers and men.
No. 5 Company—Major Hibben, 1 officer, 41 non-commission officers and men.
No. 6 Company—Capt. Drake, 2 officers, 40 non-commission officers and men.

There were in all on parade 17 officers, 17 warrant officers and sergeants, 30 bandmen and trumpeters and 201 rank and file.

The regimental staff consisted of Lieut.-Col. Gregory in command, Major Williams second in command, Lieut. R. H. Pooley, adjutant; Capt. Hall, quartermaster; Capt. Lamppan, paymaster; Surgeon-Major Hart and Rev. C. Ensor Sharpe, chaplain.

The Sixth Battalion, Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, was under command of Lieut.-Col. Worsnop. The regiment arrived on Sunday morning on the Ribbet and marched into camp to the glare of the excellent bugle band of the regiment.

The force mustered 254 men all told, as follows:
"A" Company (New Westminster), Lieut. Dockrill and Grant, 32 men.
"B" Company (New Westminster), Capt. Henderson, 30 men.
"C" Company (Vancouver), Captain Boulthée, 27 men.
"D" Company (Vancouver), Capt. Tate and Lieut. Tate, 34 men.
"E" Company (Vancouver), Lieut. Boyd, 29 men.
"F" Company (Vancouver), Lieut.



LIEUT.-COL. WORSNOP, Com. Sixth Rifles.