



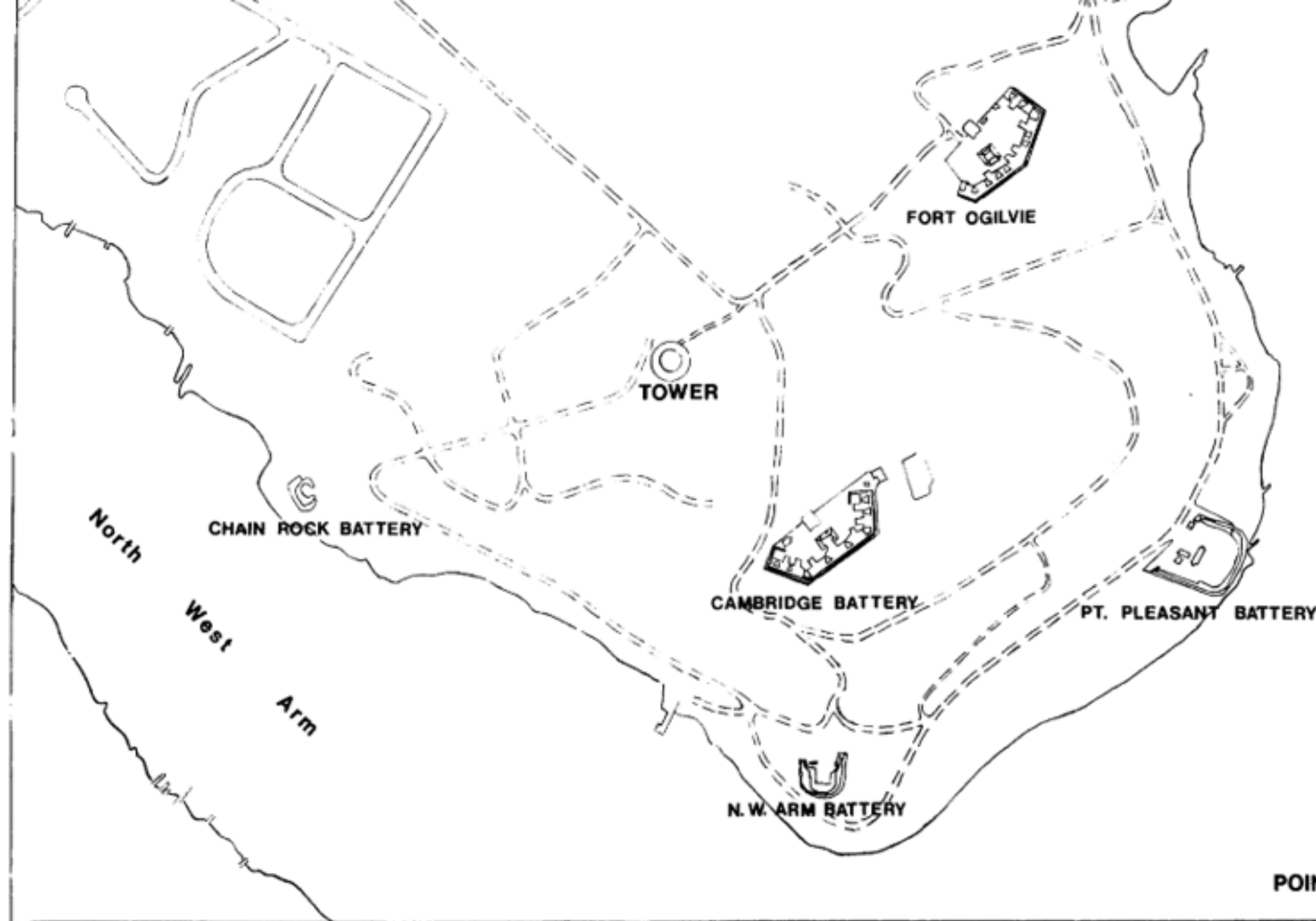
# Point Pleasant and the Defence of Halifax

Presentation to  
Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee 1 May 2025

Tom Tulloch

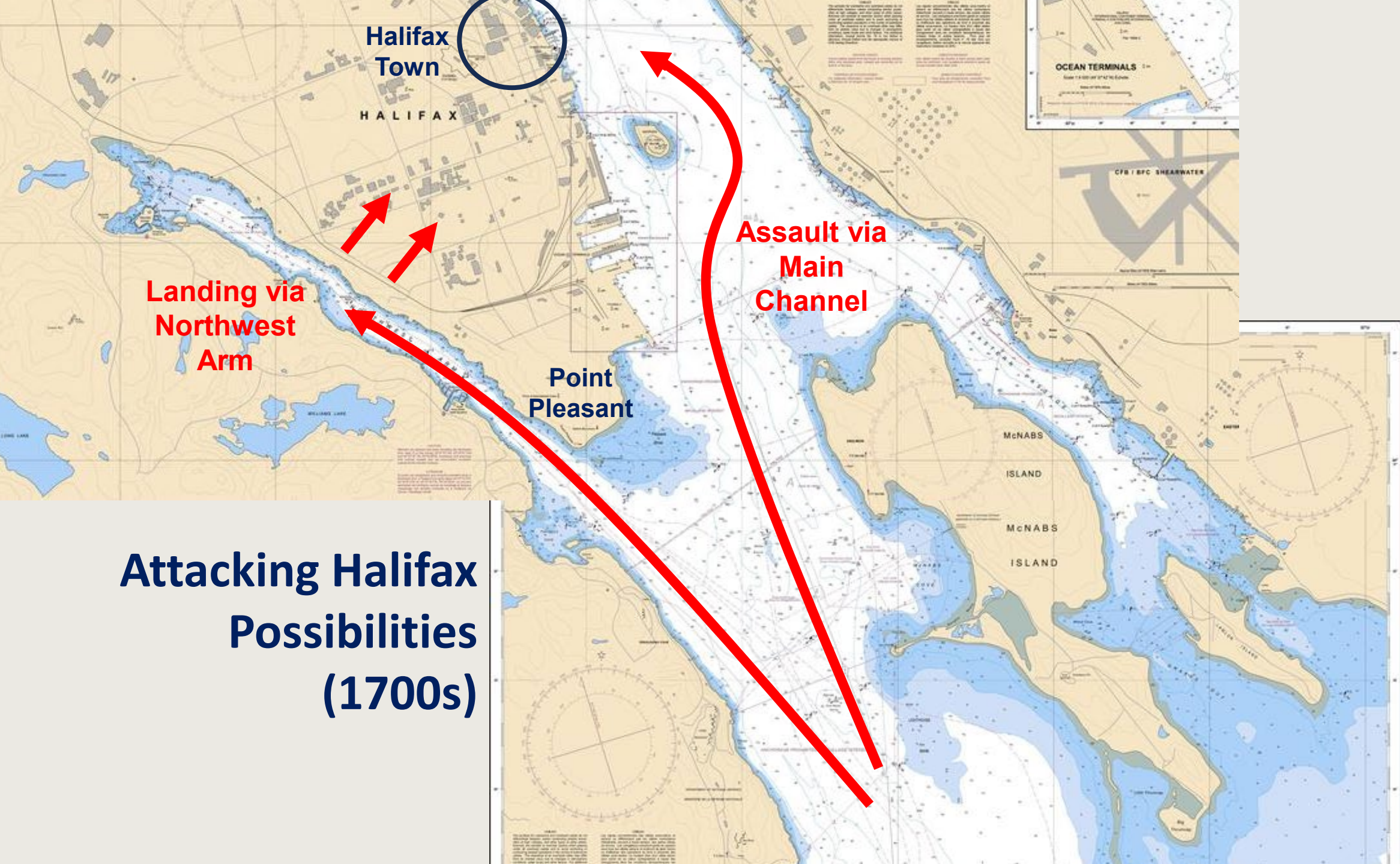
Halifax

Harbour



POINT PLEASANT DEFENCES





Halifax  
Town

HALIFAX

Landing via  
Northwest  
Arm

Assault via  
Main  
Channel

Point  
Pleasant

McNABS

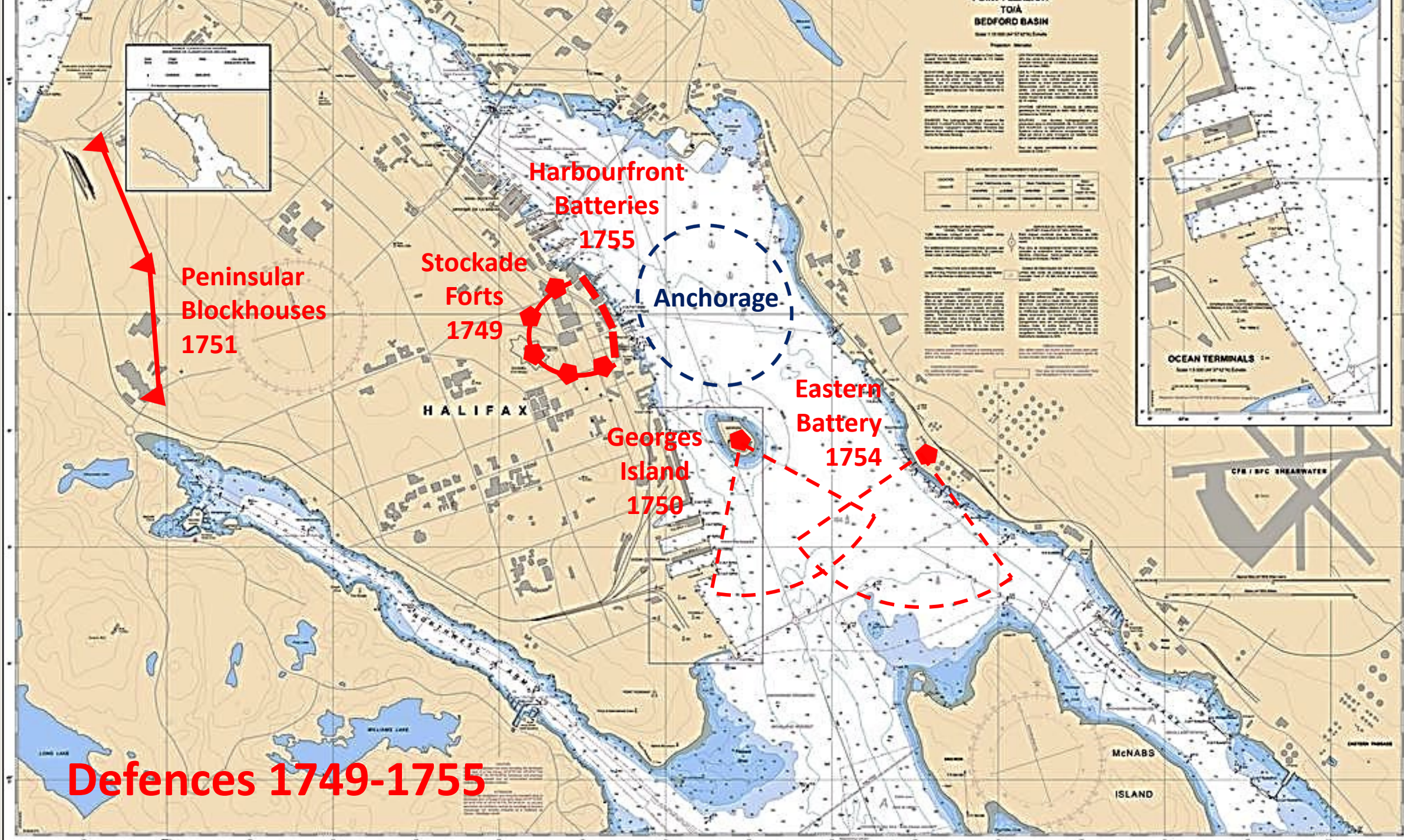
ISLAND

McNABS

ISLAND

Attacking Halifax  
Possibilities  
(1700s)





**TOA BEDFORD BASIN**

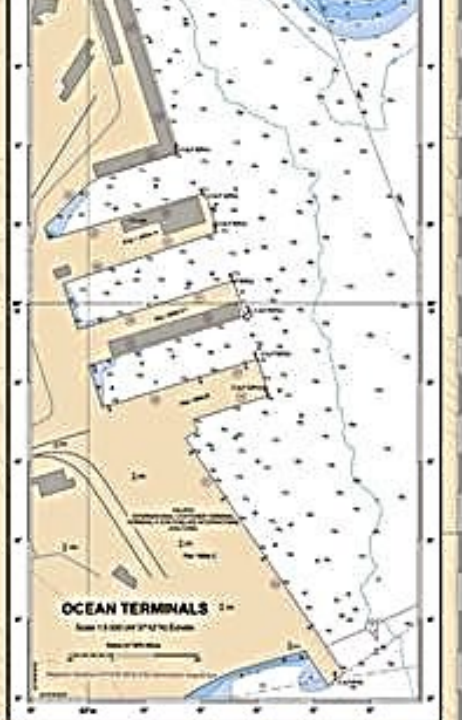
Scale 1:10,000 (1" = 100') E.S. 1870

Proposed Structure

THE TOA BEDFORD BASIN is a proposed structure for the purpose of providing a secure anchorage for the fleet. The structure is to be built on the site of the old Bedford Basin, and is to be a permanent structure. The structure is to be built on the site of the old Bedford Basin, and is to be a permanent structure. The structure is to be built on the site of the old Bedford Basin, and is to be a permanent structure.

Item	Quantity	Unit	Value
1. Concrete	100,000	cubic yards	\$100,000
2. Steel	10,000	tons	\$100,000
3. Labor	10,000	man-days	\$100,000
4. Material	10,000	tons	\$100,000
5. Transport	10,000	man-days	\$100,000
6. Other	10,000	man-days	\$100,000
Total			\$600,000

The TOA Bedford Basin is a proposed structure for the purpose of providing a secure anchorage for the fleet. The structure is to be built on the site of the old Bedford Basin, and is to be a permanent structure. The structure is to be built on the site of the old Bedford Basin, and is to be a permanent structure. The structure is to be built on the site of the old Bedford Basin, and is to be a permanent structure.

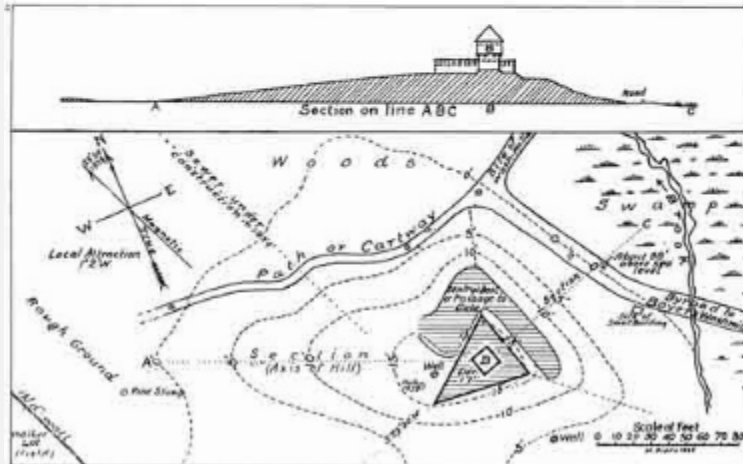
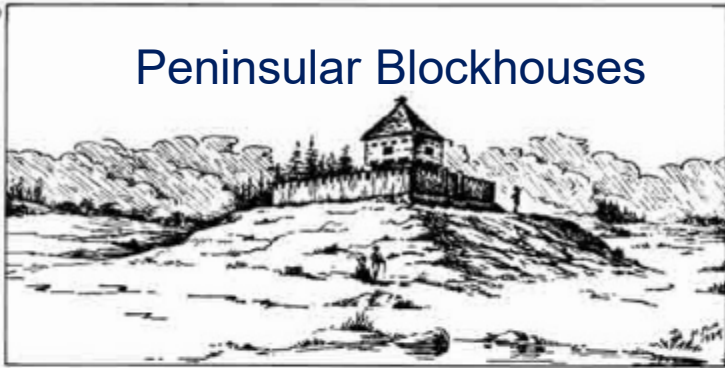


**Defences 1749-1755**



# Early Halifax Defences 1749-1755

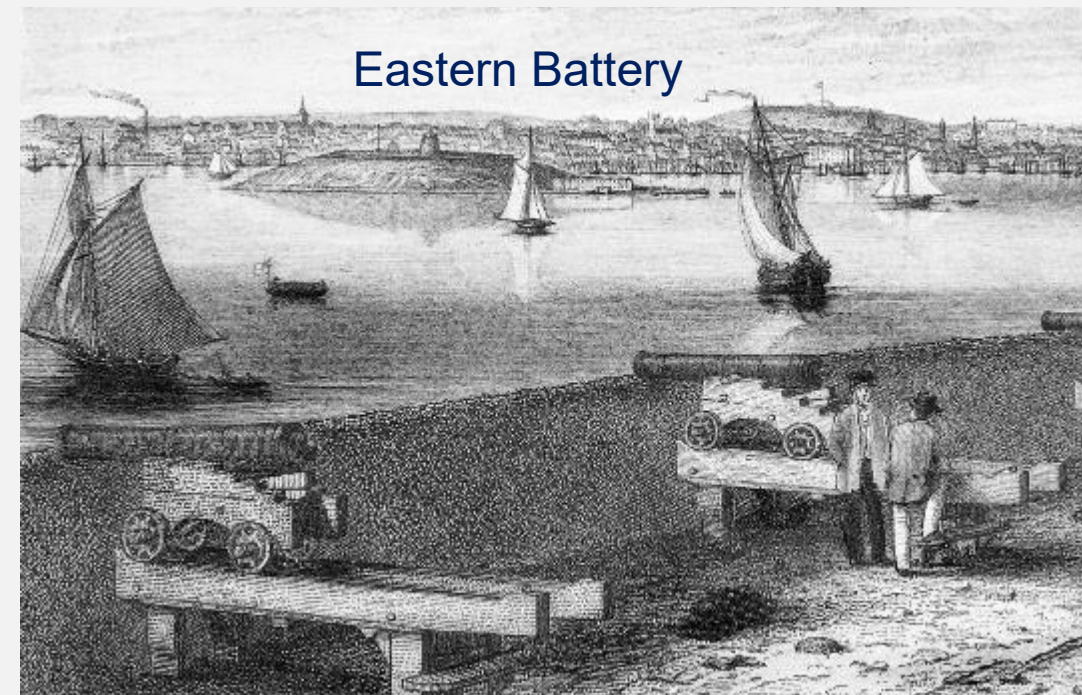
Peninsular Blockhouses



Georges Island

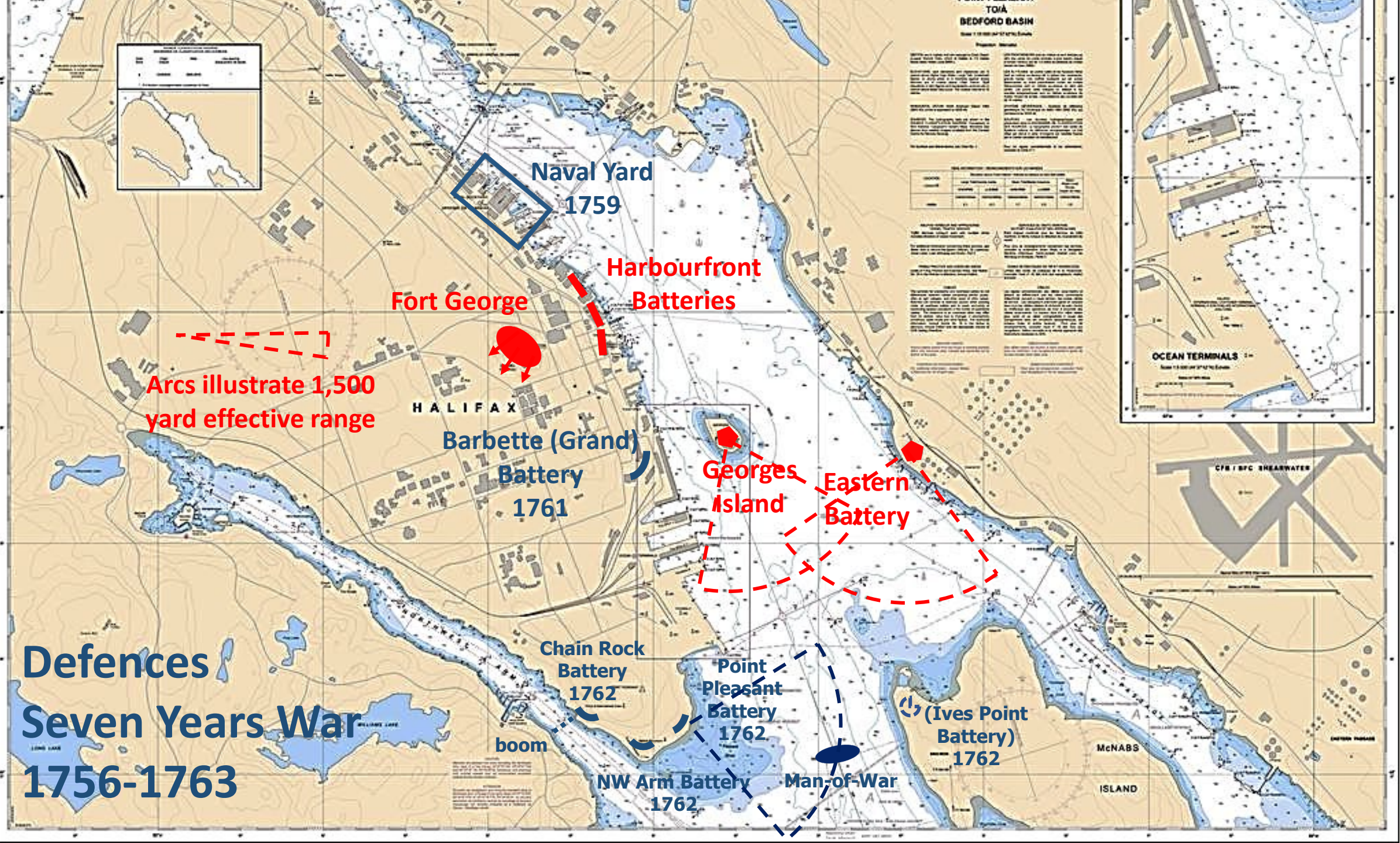


Eastern Battery





# Defences Seven Years War 1756-1763







Map of Halifax by Captain Blaskowitz 1784



1880

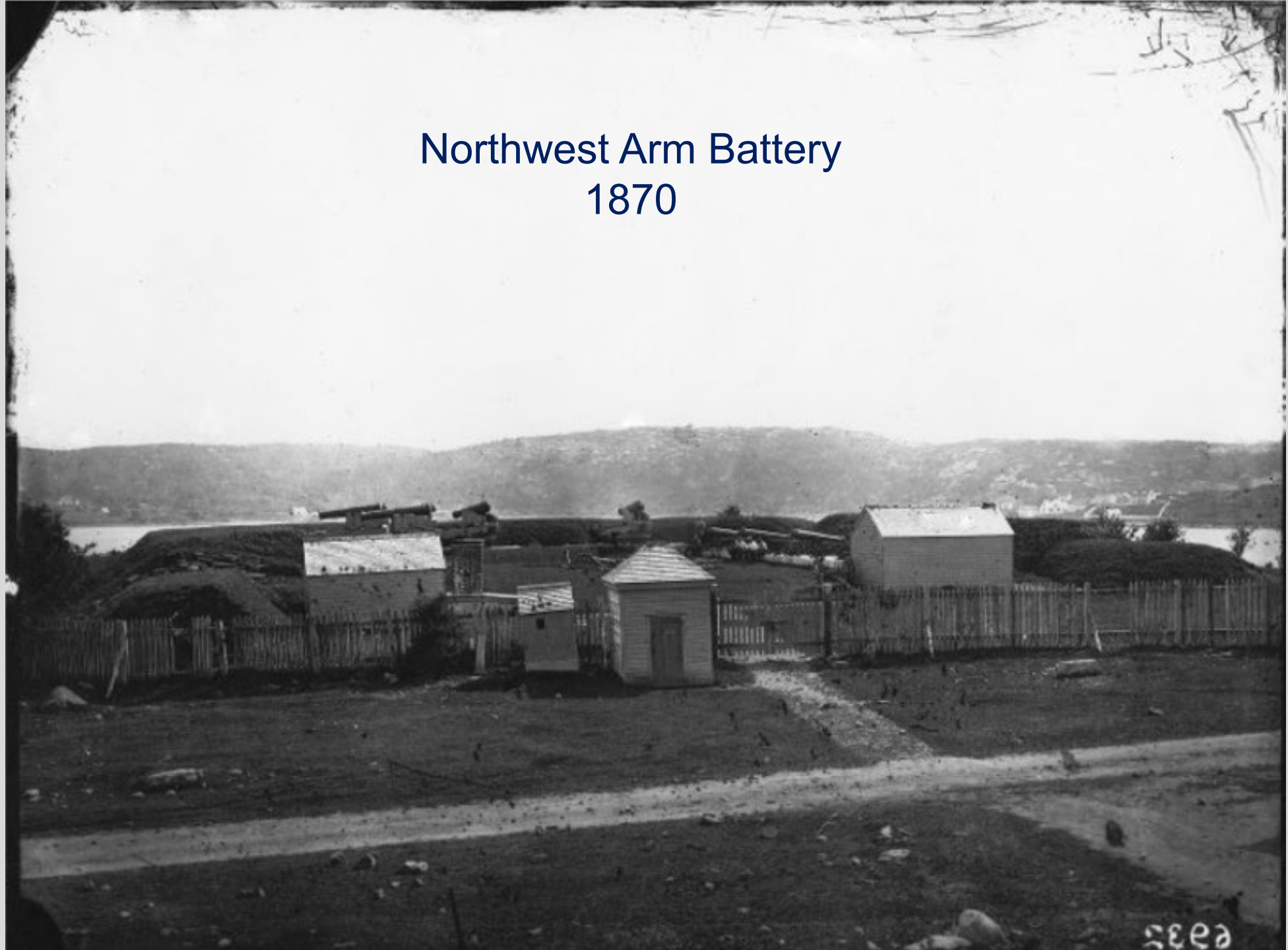


Point Pleasant Battery 1842  
by Alexander Cavalié Mercer

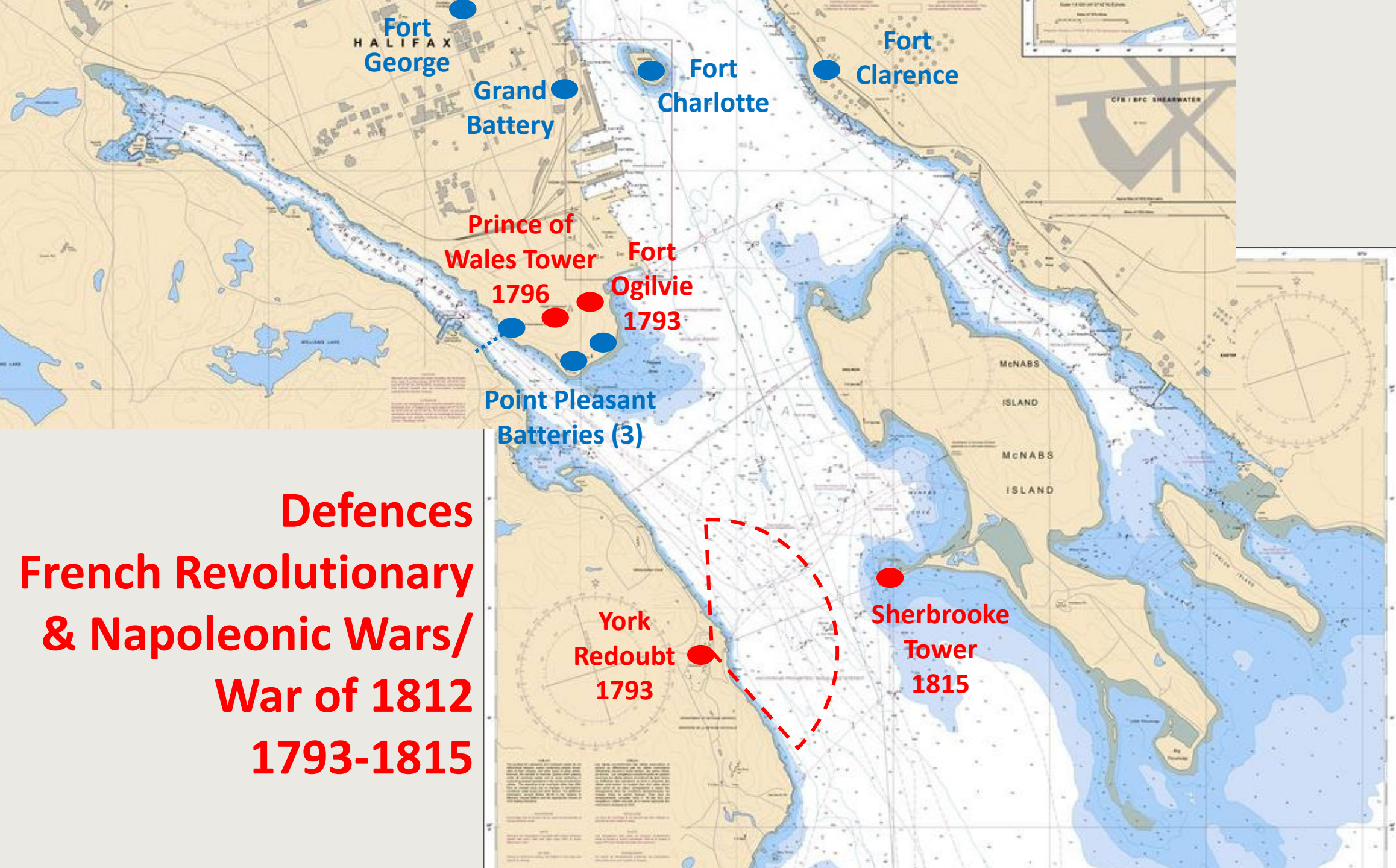




Northwest Arm Battery  
1870



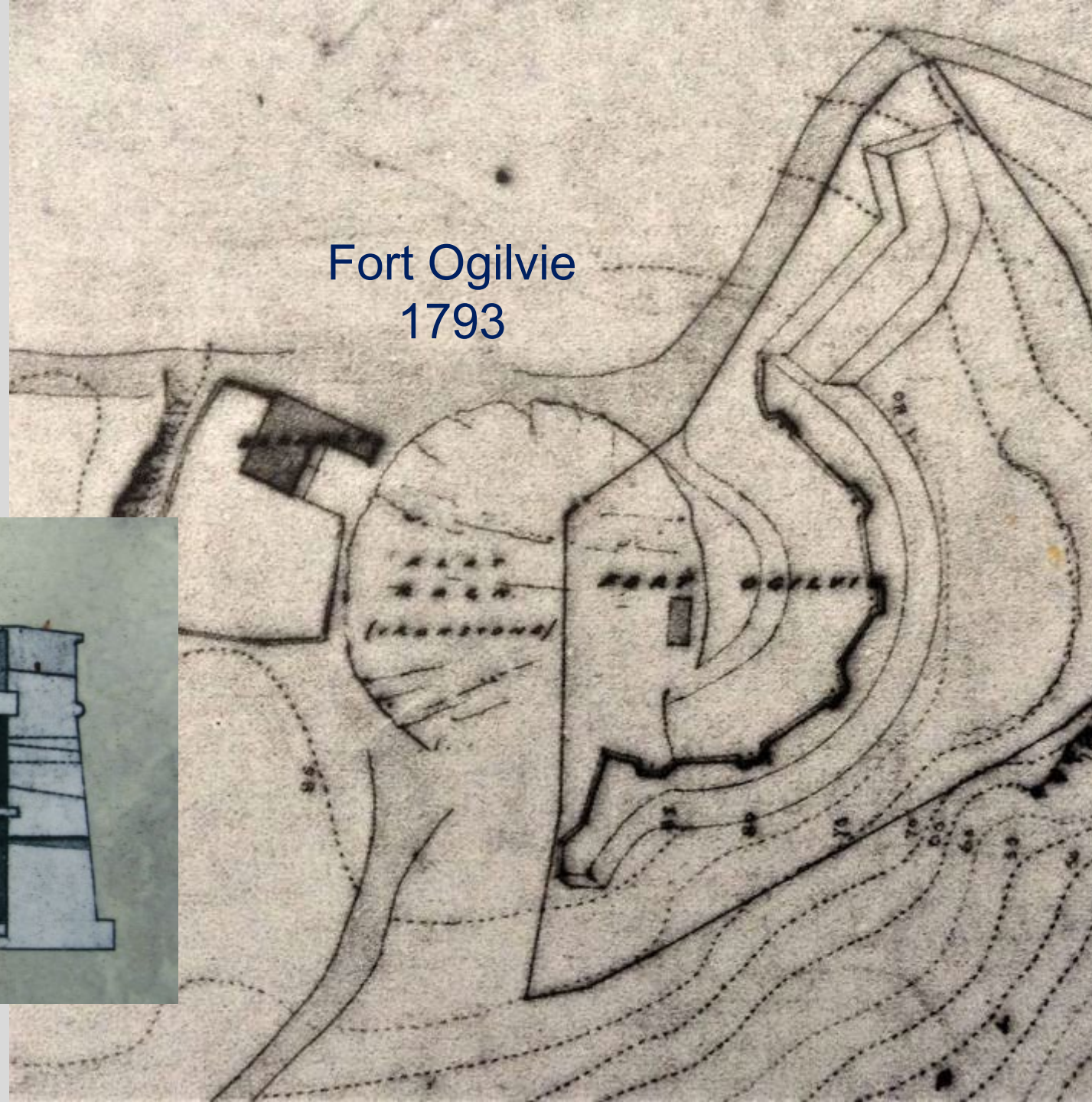




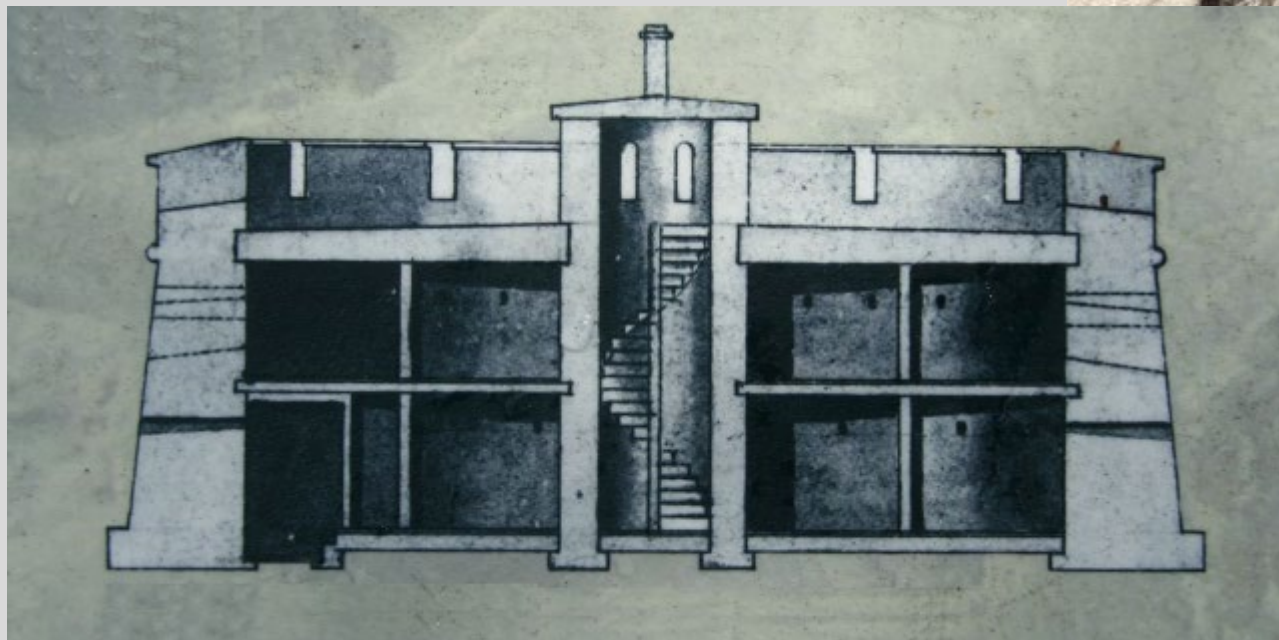
**Defences  
French Revolutionary  
& Napoleonic Wars/  
War of 1812  
1793-1815**



Fort Ogilvie  
1793



Prince of Wales Martello Tower  
1796







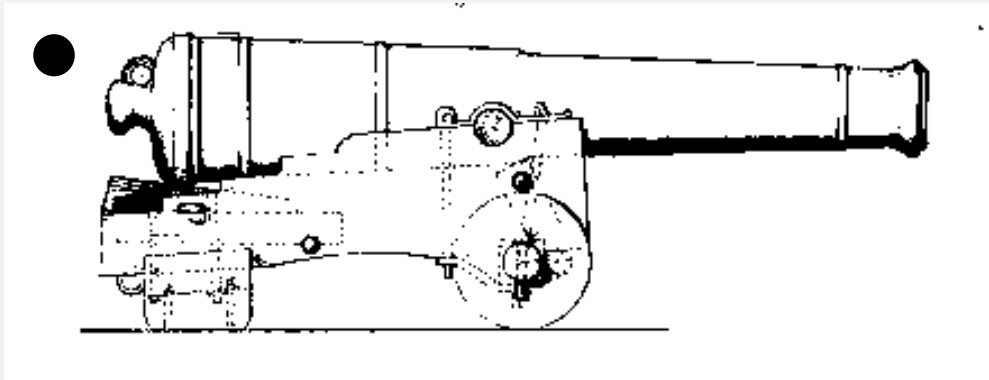




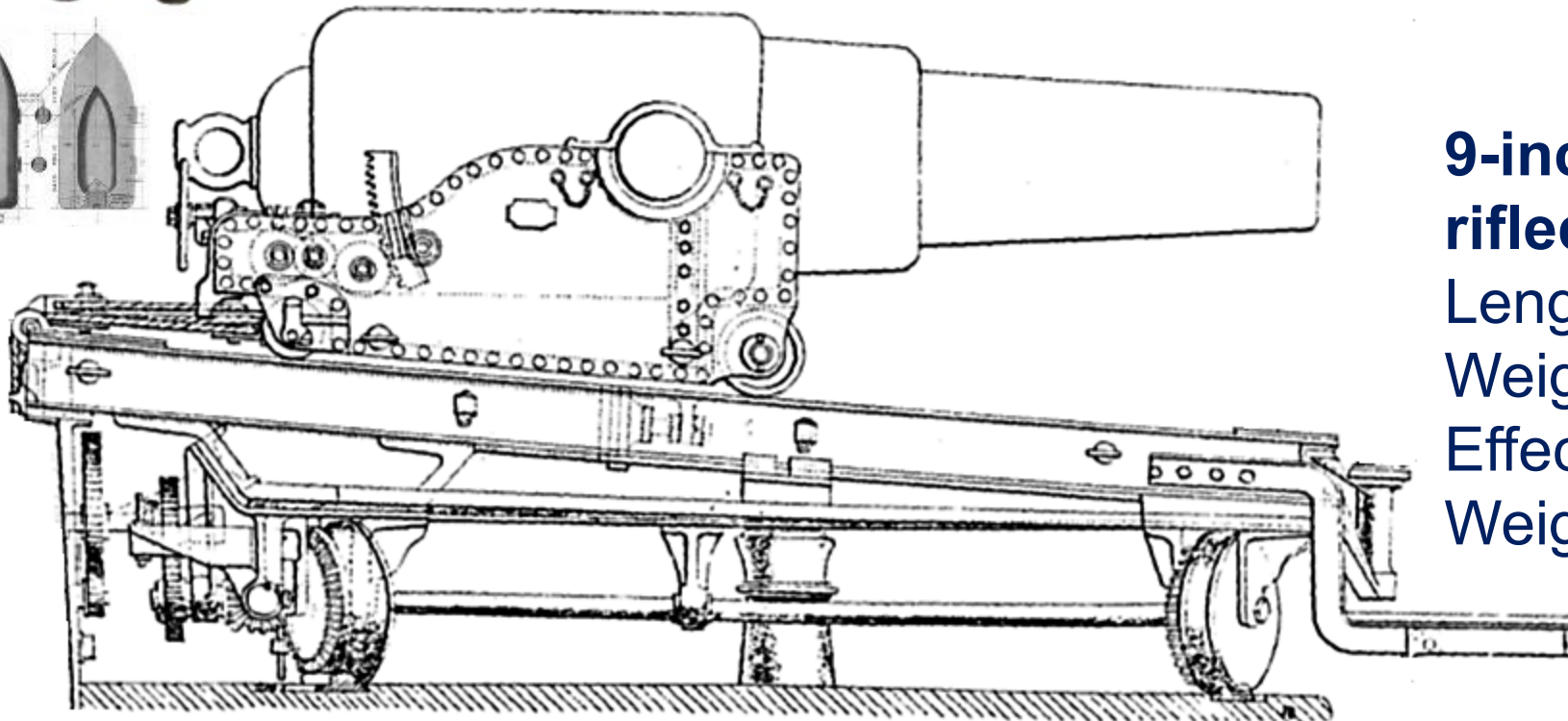
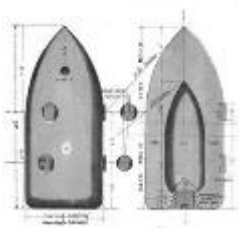
**Palliser  
Shell**

**Rifled Muzzle-Loading (RML) Gun c1860**





**24-pounder  
smooth-bore cannon**  
Length 9 feet  
Weight 2.3 tons  
Effective range 1,500 yards  
Weight of projectile 24 lbs



**9-inch  
rifled muzzle-loading gun**  
Length 13 feet  
Weight 12 tons  
Effective range 2,000 yards  
Weight of projectile 256 lbs



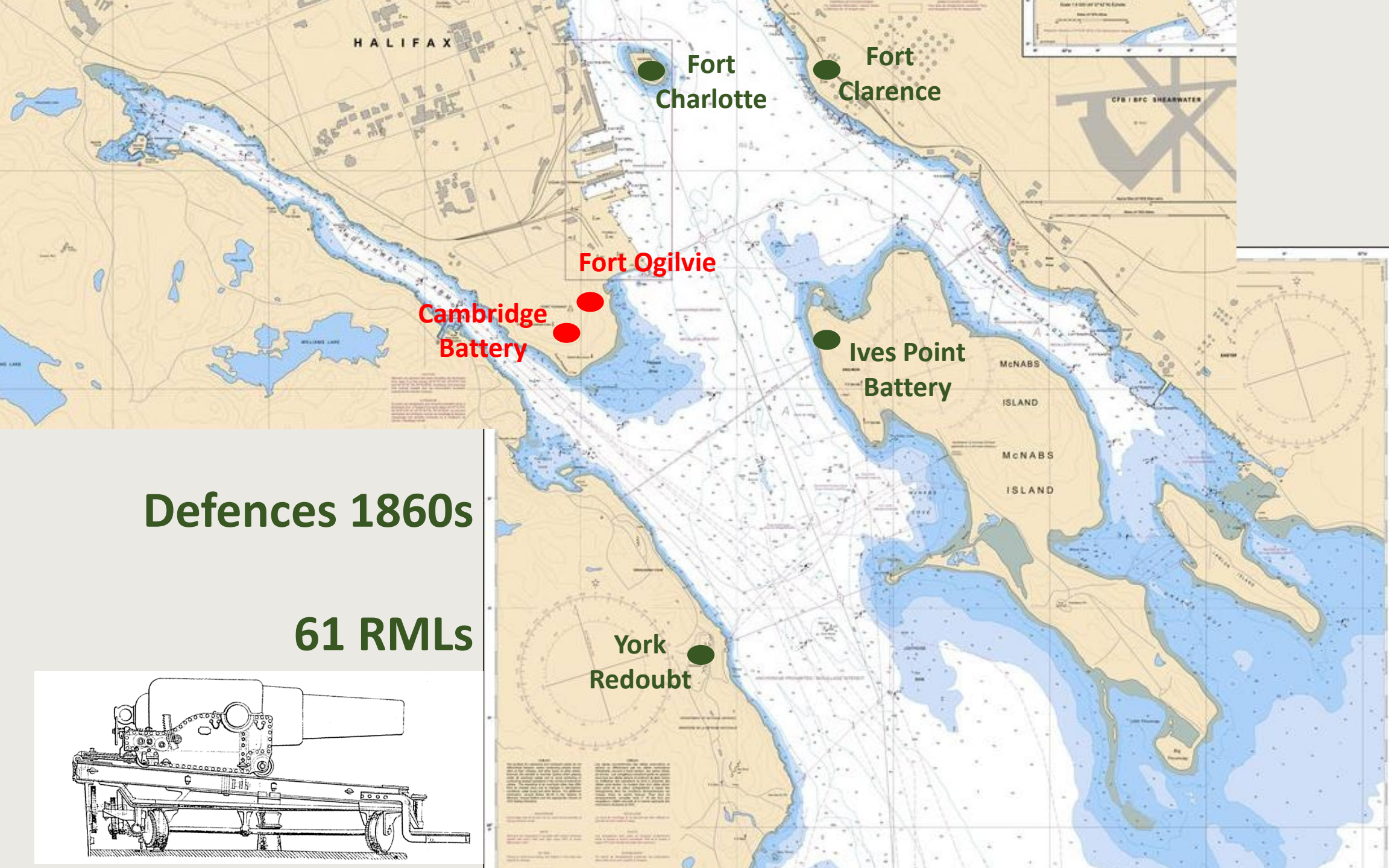
**Imperial German Navy**  
Ironclads  
10.2-inch RML guns



**U.S. Navy**  
Armoured Cruisers  
8-inch RML guns

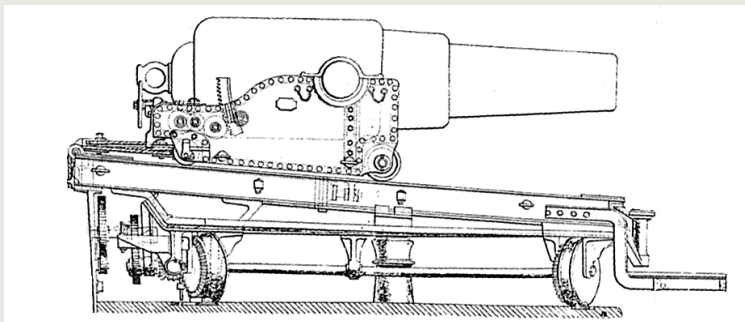






**Defences 1860s**

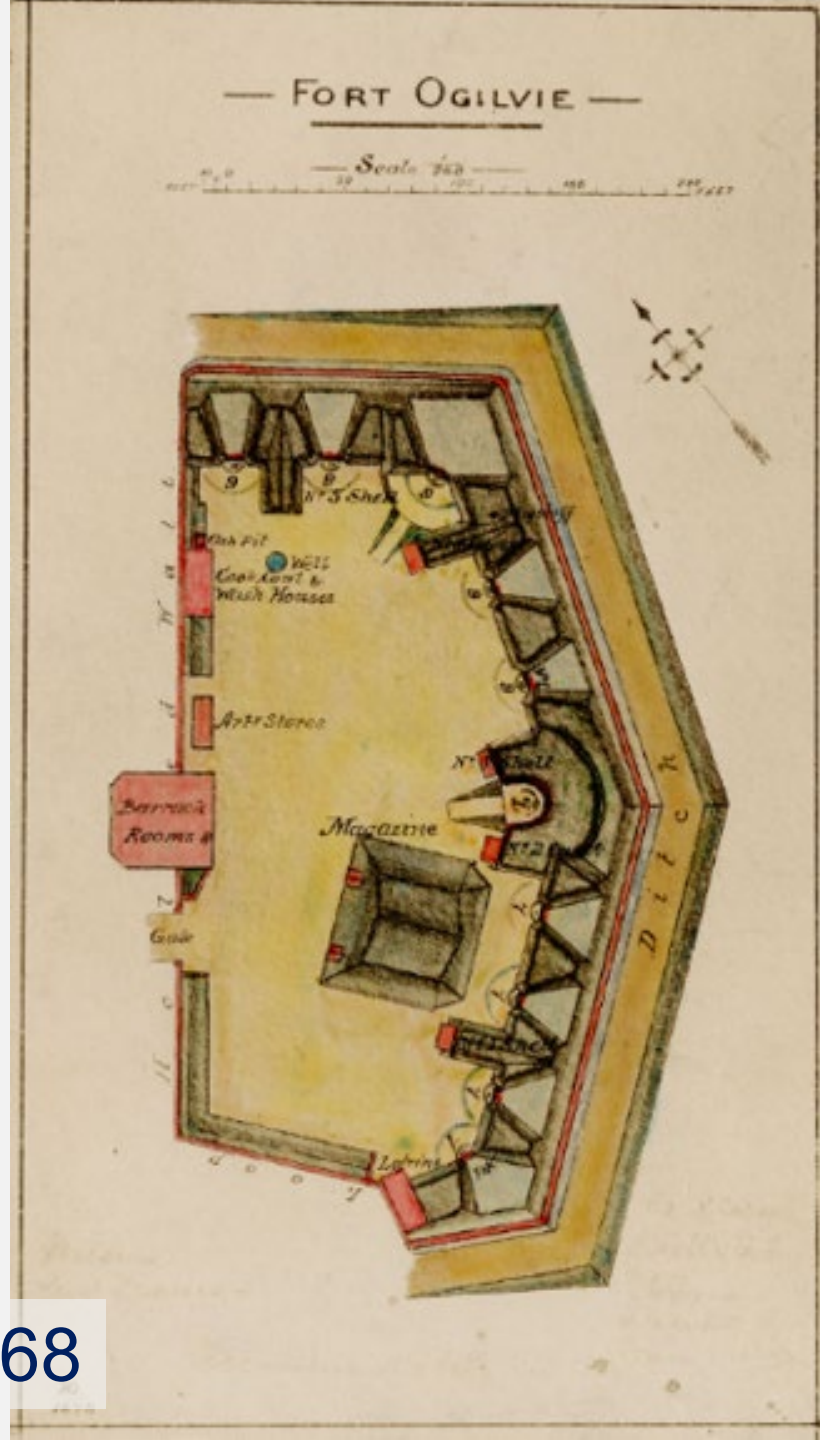
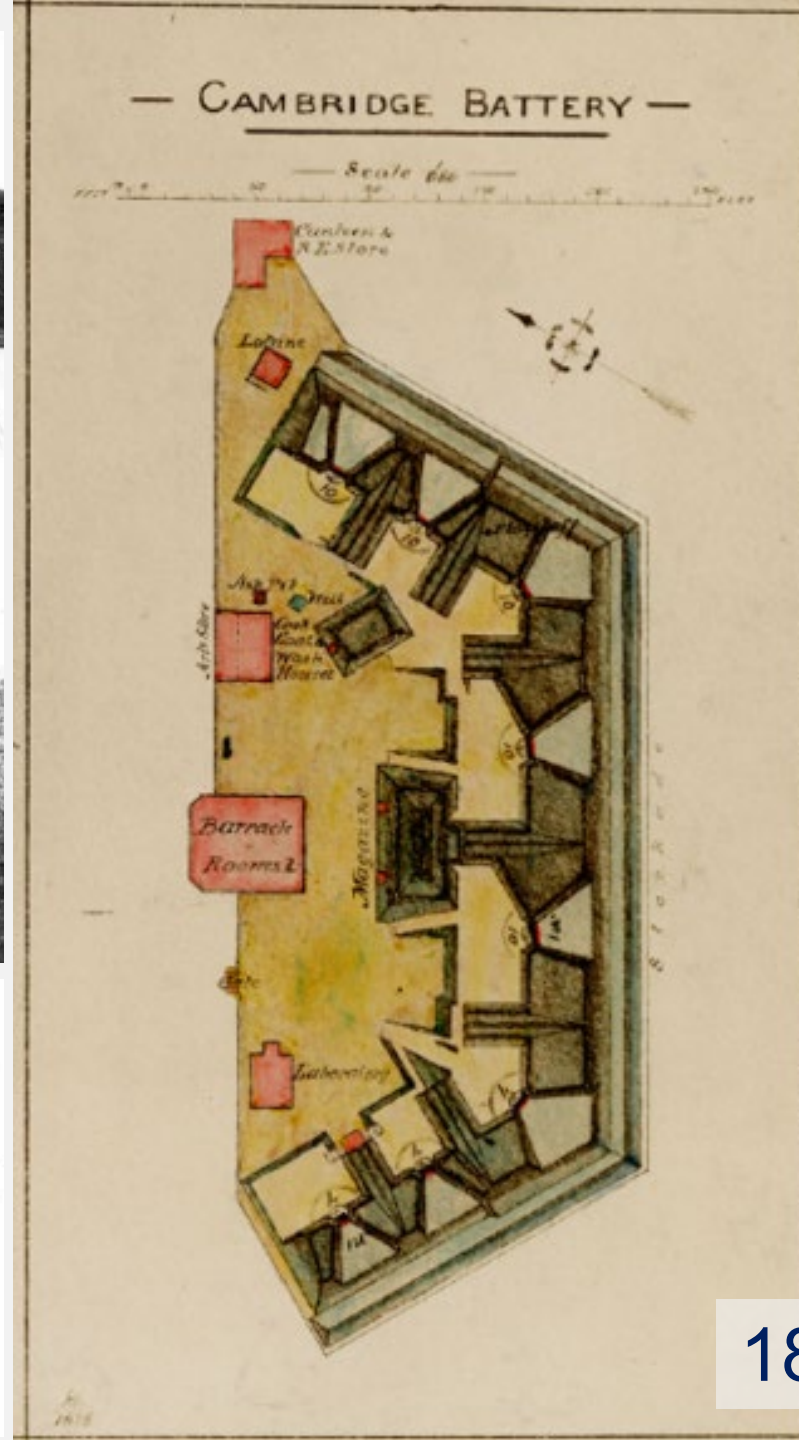
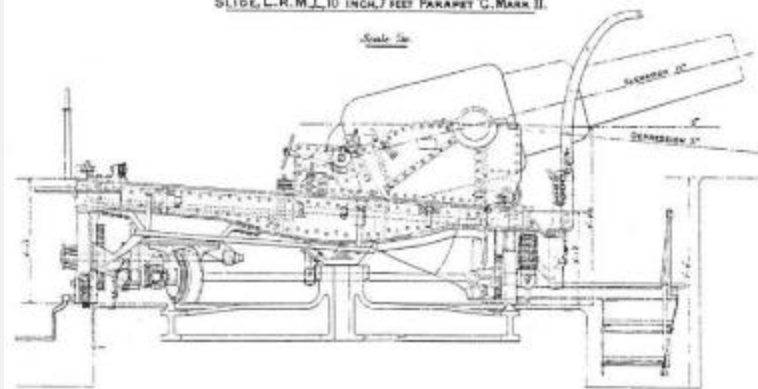
**61 RMLs**





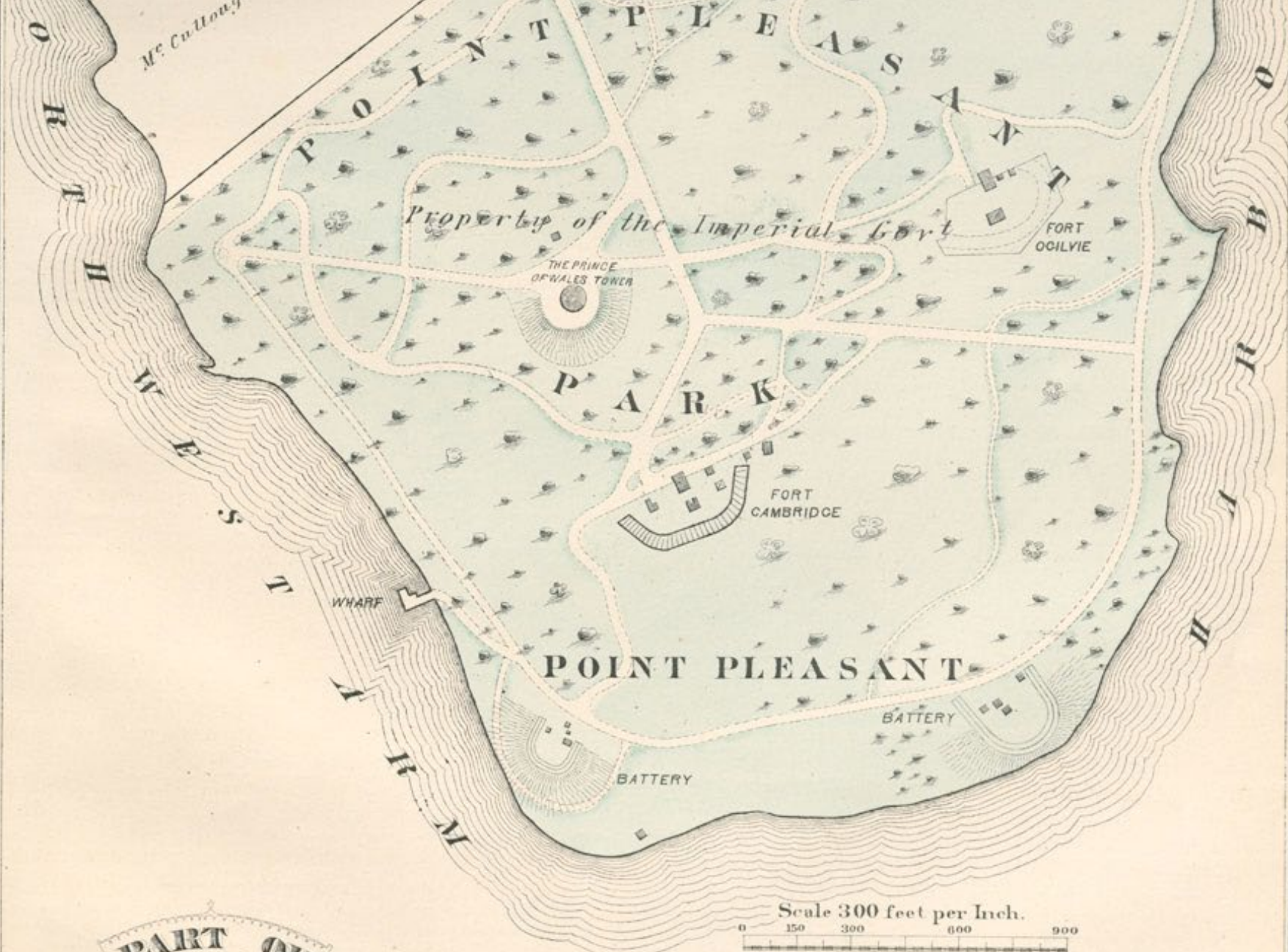


CARRIAGE, GARRISON, R.M.L. 10 INCH, MARK III.  
SLIDE, L.R.M.L. 10 INCH, 7 FEET PARAPET 'C', MARK II.



1868





City of Halifax Atlas 1878 – H.W. Hopkins



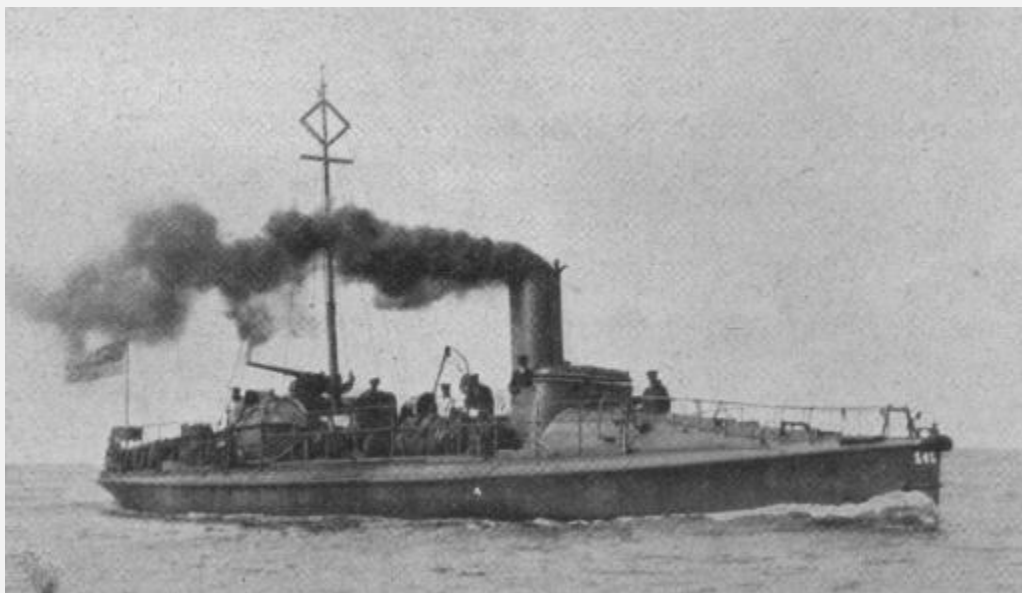
# A New Threat

## Torpedo boats

Small, very fast, armed with torpedoes

Introduced in late-1870s

Hundreds in German Navy by 1900s



## Submarines

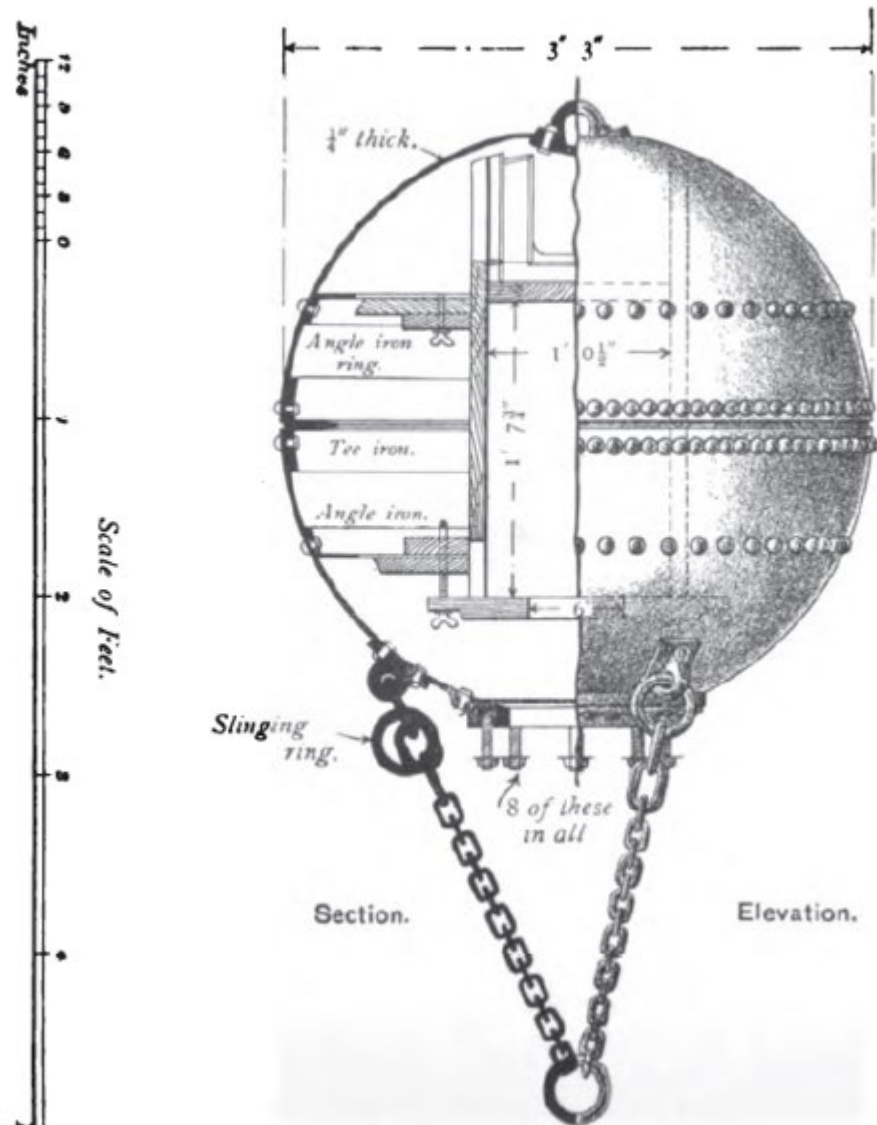
Stealthy, armed with torpedoes

Introduced 1900s

380 in German Navy up to 1918

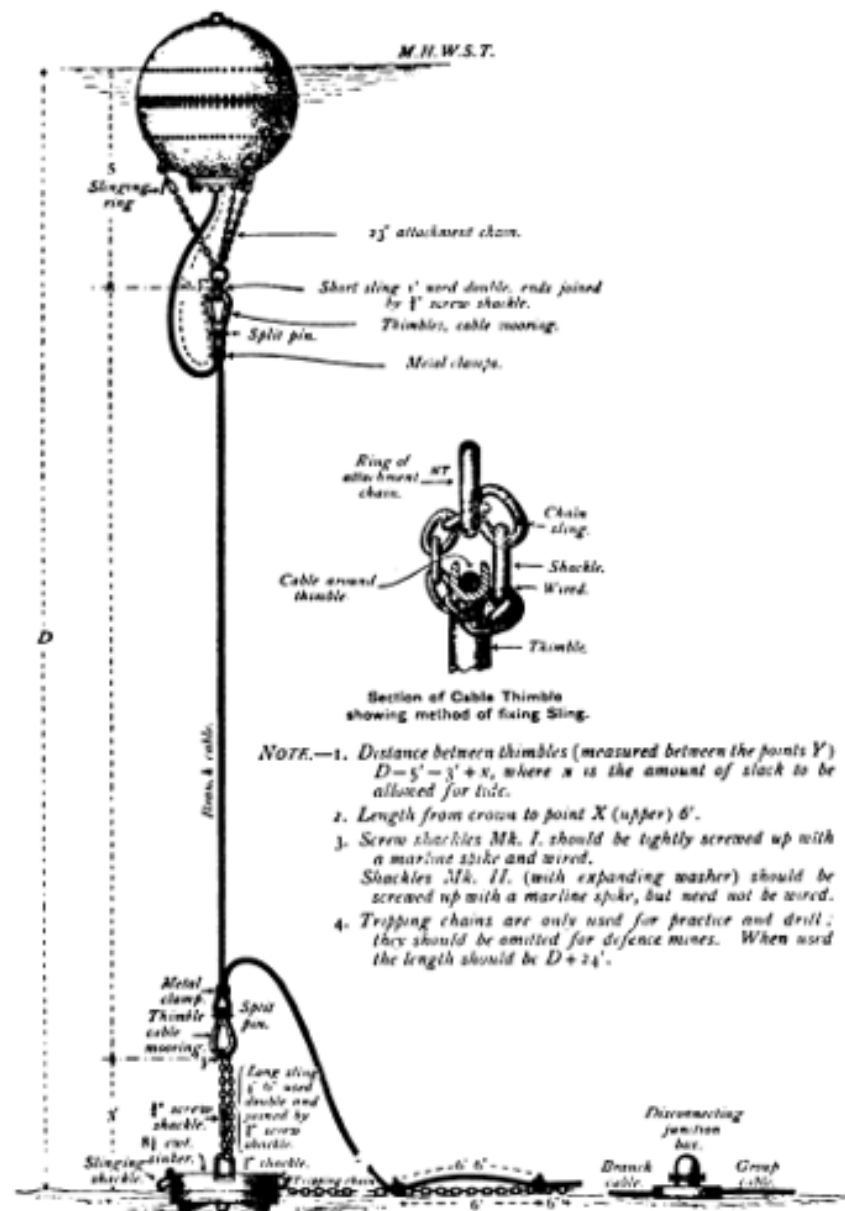


# MINE CASES, SUBMARINE MINING, BUOYANT, SPHERICAL, 100-LB. MARK III.



MARK III.

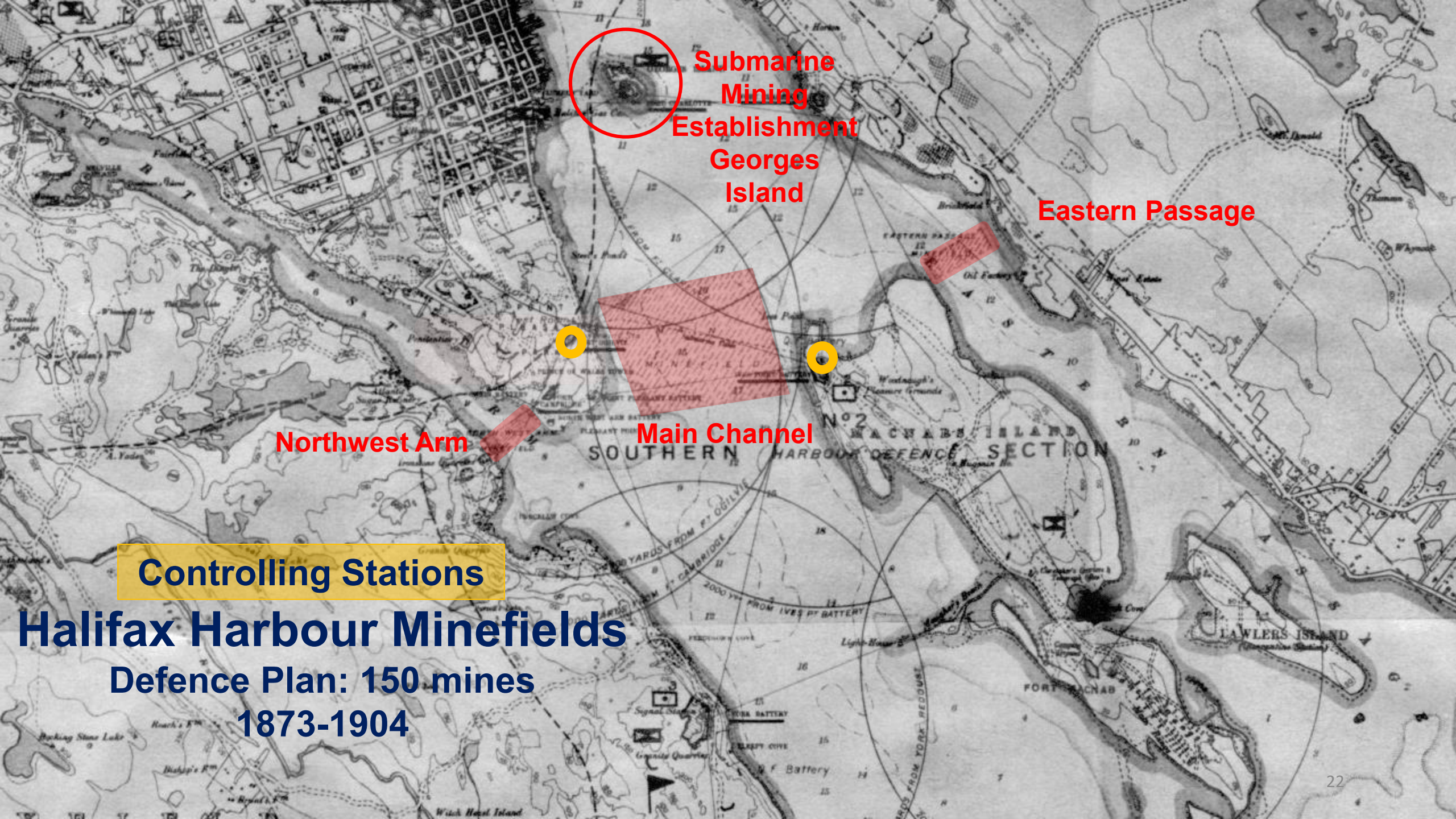
# 100-LB. E.C. MINE, CONNECTED UP AND LAID OUT ON FORK SYSTEM.











Submarine  
Mining  
Establishment  
Georges  
Island

Eastern Passage

Northwest Arm

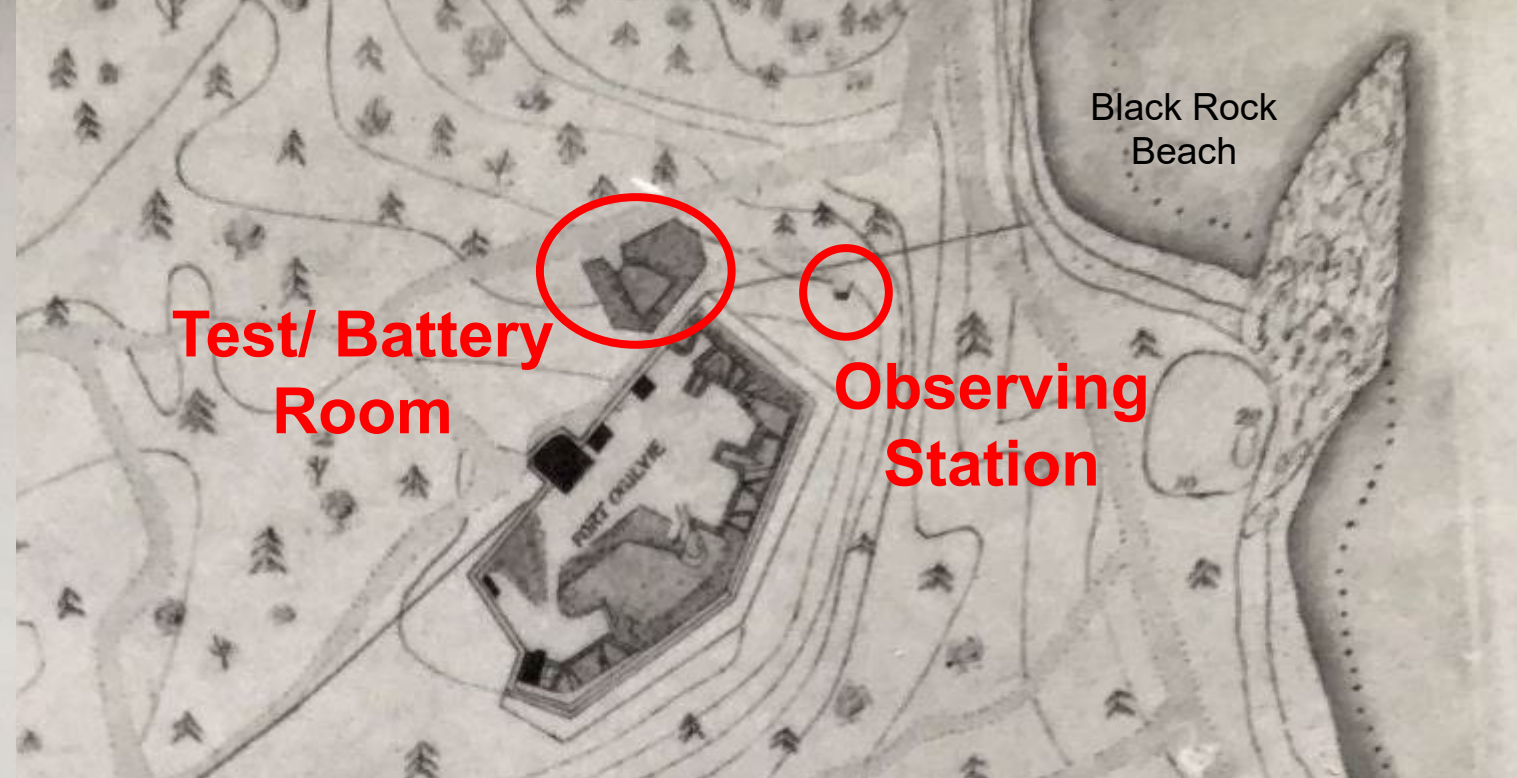
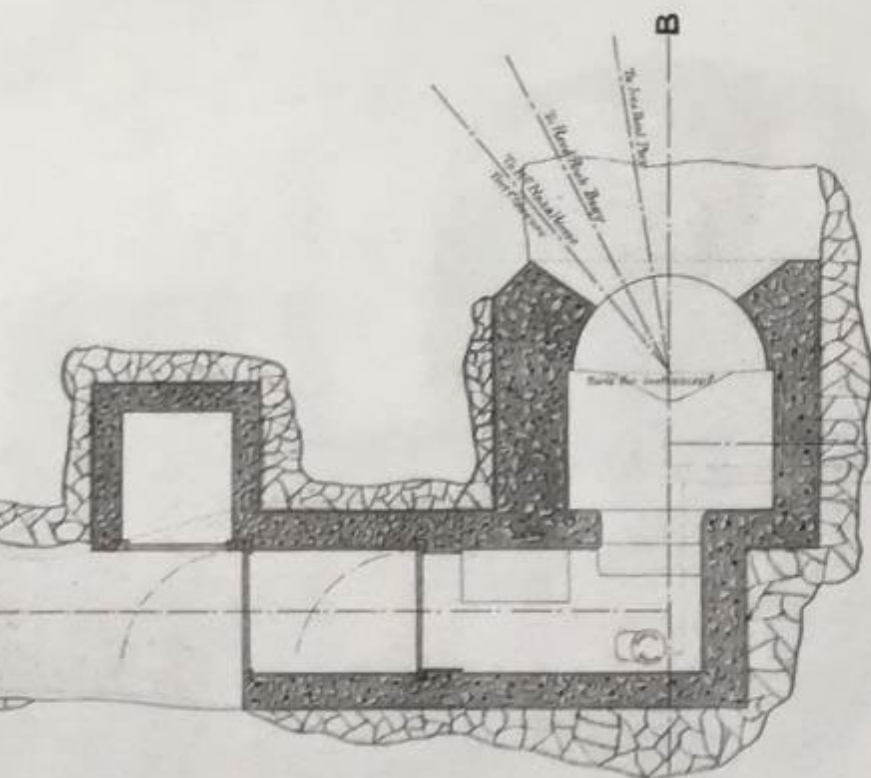
Main Channel

Controlling Stations

Halifax Harbour Minefields  
Defence Plan: 150 mines  
1873-1904



**HALIFAX. N.S.**  
— FORT OGILVIE —  
**OBSERVING STATION**  
— WITH —  
**SITE & SURFACE PLANS**



**Fort Ogilvie  
Point Pleasant**





**Searchlights  
1886**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Defence Electric Lights Halifax Harbour N.S.  
as authorized up to January 1908 by  
Grand Ammiral This is Company  
plan to proposals by Capt. Simon  
date - 7-1-08

Simon  
Capt. H.C.E.  
D.O. Defence Light  
Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 03

The map shows several searchlight ranges indicated by dashed lines and labels:  
 No. 1. 16° Range about 1100'  
 No. 2. 16° Range about 1100'  
 No. 3. 16° Range about 1100'  
 No. 4. 30° Range about 1100'  
 No. 5. 30° Range about 1100'

Geographical labels include: WATSON LAKE, PURCELL COVE, MACNAB ISLAND, MACNAB COVE, FINLAY COVE, MIDDLE GROUND, FERGUSON COVE, and various points and shoals.





# HALIFAX. N. S.

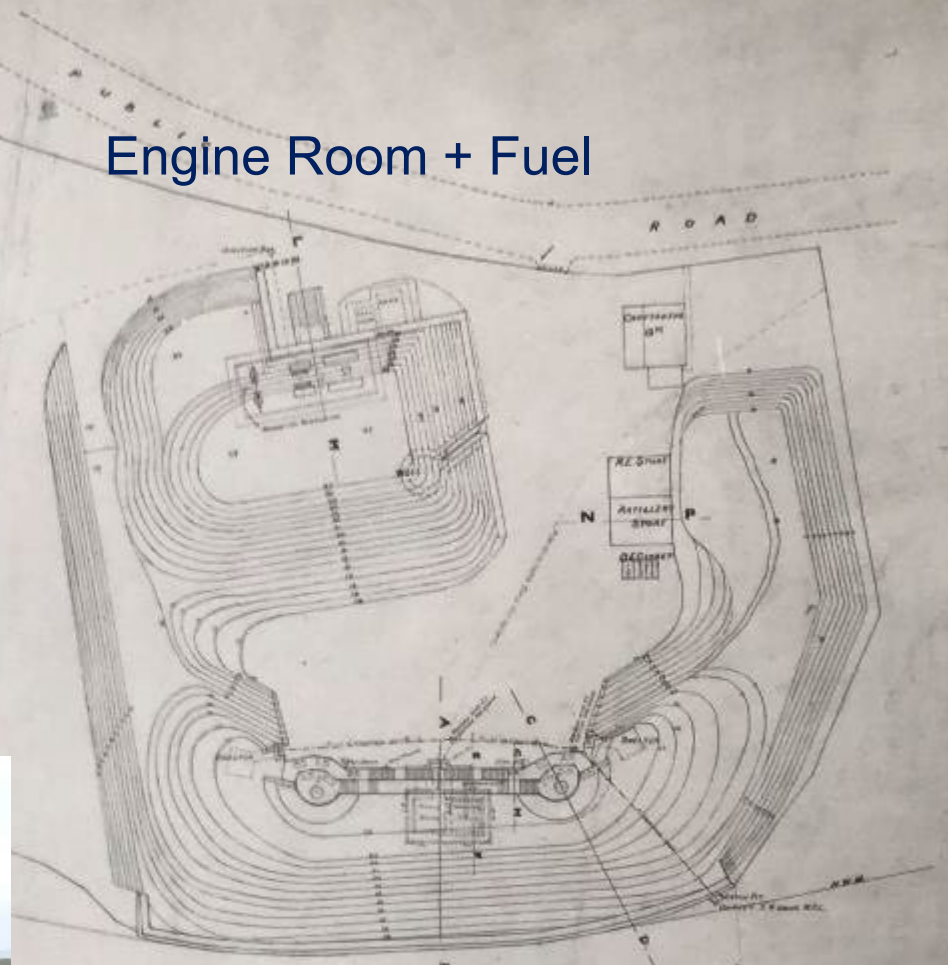
## POINT PLEASANT BATTERY

### EMPLACEMENTS FOR 2-12<sup>PRS</sup> QF GUNS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT EMPLACEMENTS

Nº1 of set 1

Engine Room + Fuel

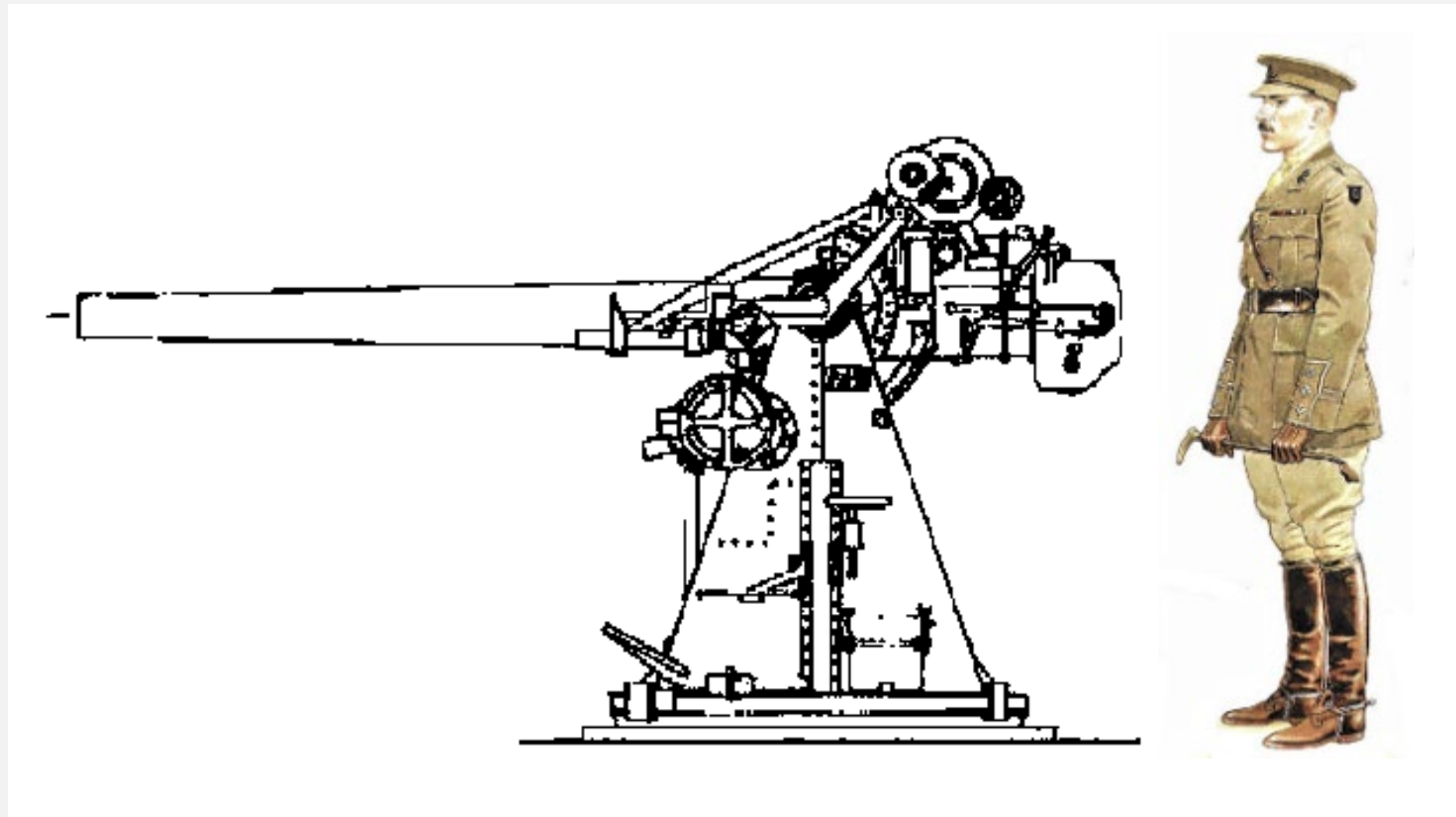
Two Searchlights



Two 12-pounder QF Guns

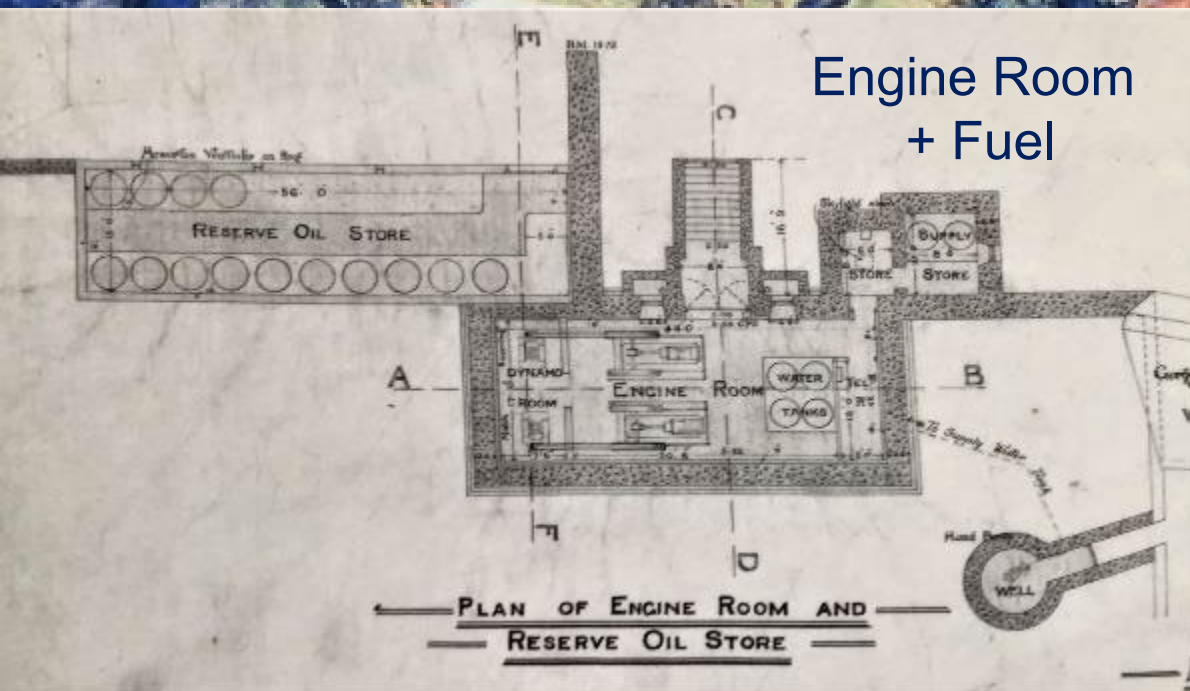






12-pounder Quick-Fire (QF) Gun - 1900

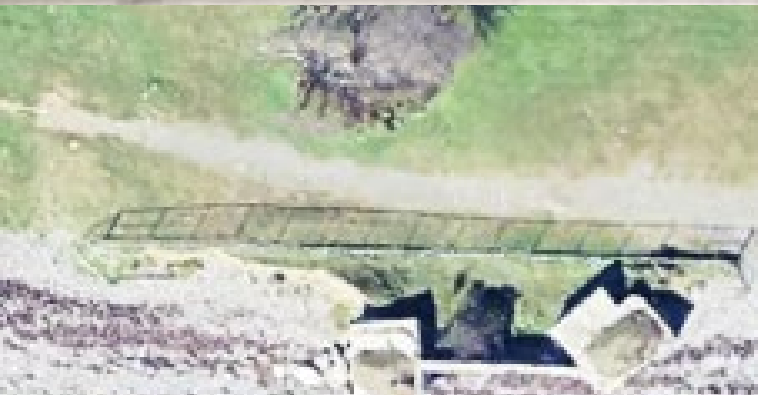




Engine Room  
+ Fuel



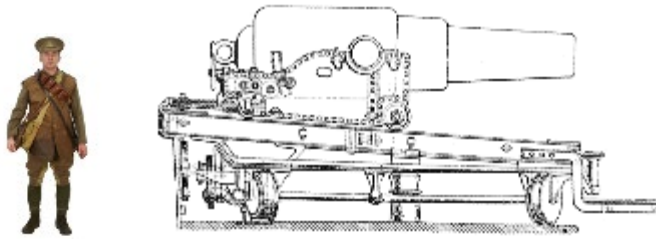
Two 12-pounder QF Guns



Two Searchlights

## Point Pleasant Battery

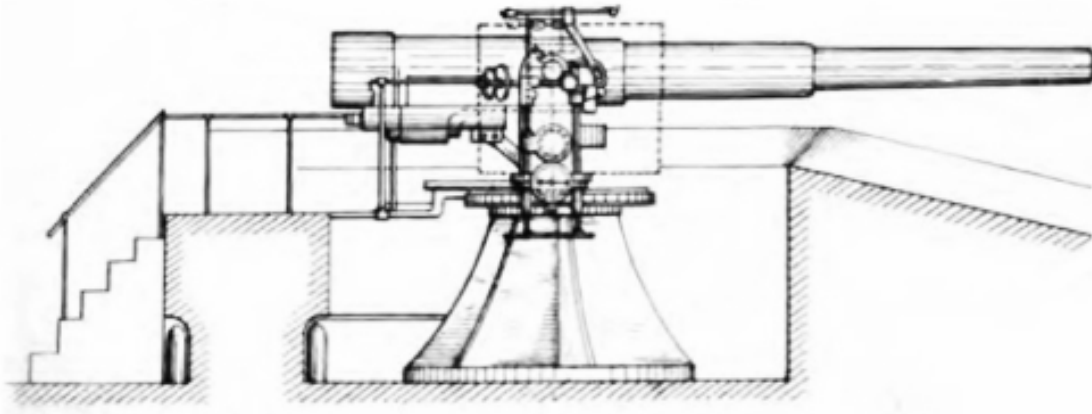




## 9-inch rifled muzzle loading gun

Effective range 2,000 yards

Weight of projectile 256 lbs.

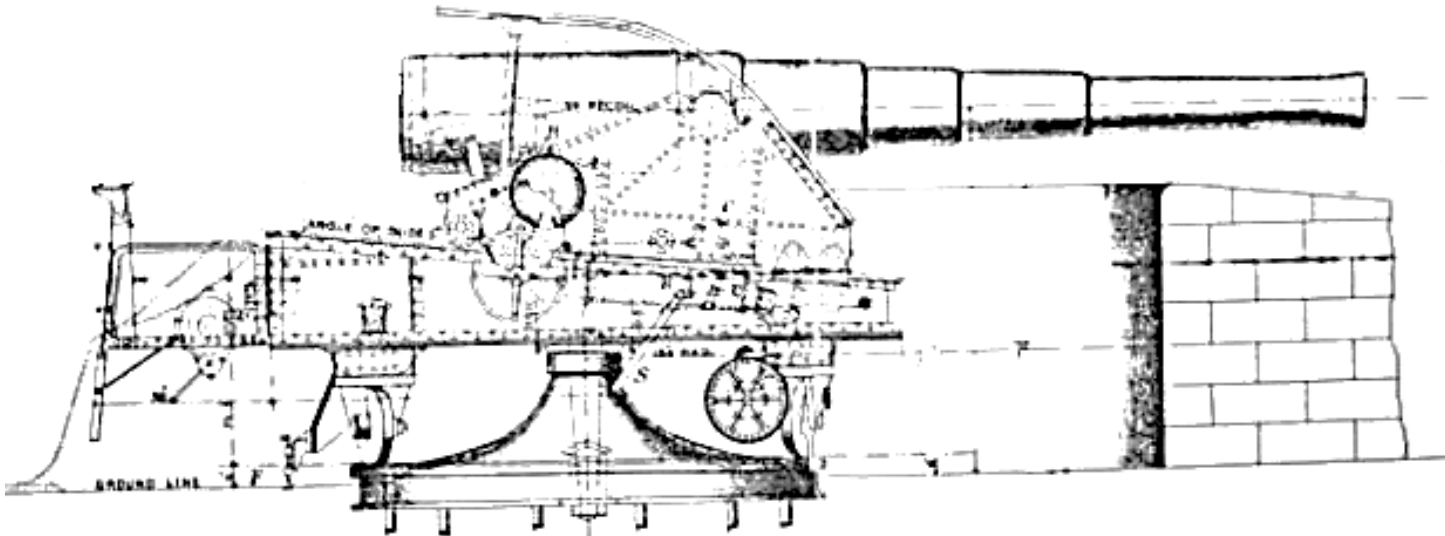


## 6-inch

## breech loading gun

Effective range 6,000 yards

Weight of projectile 100 lbs



## 9.2-inch

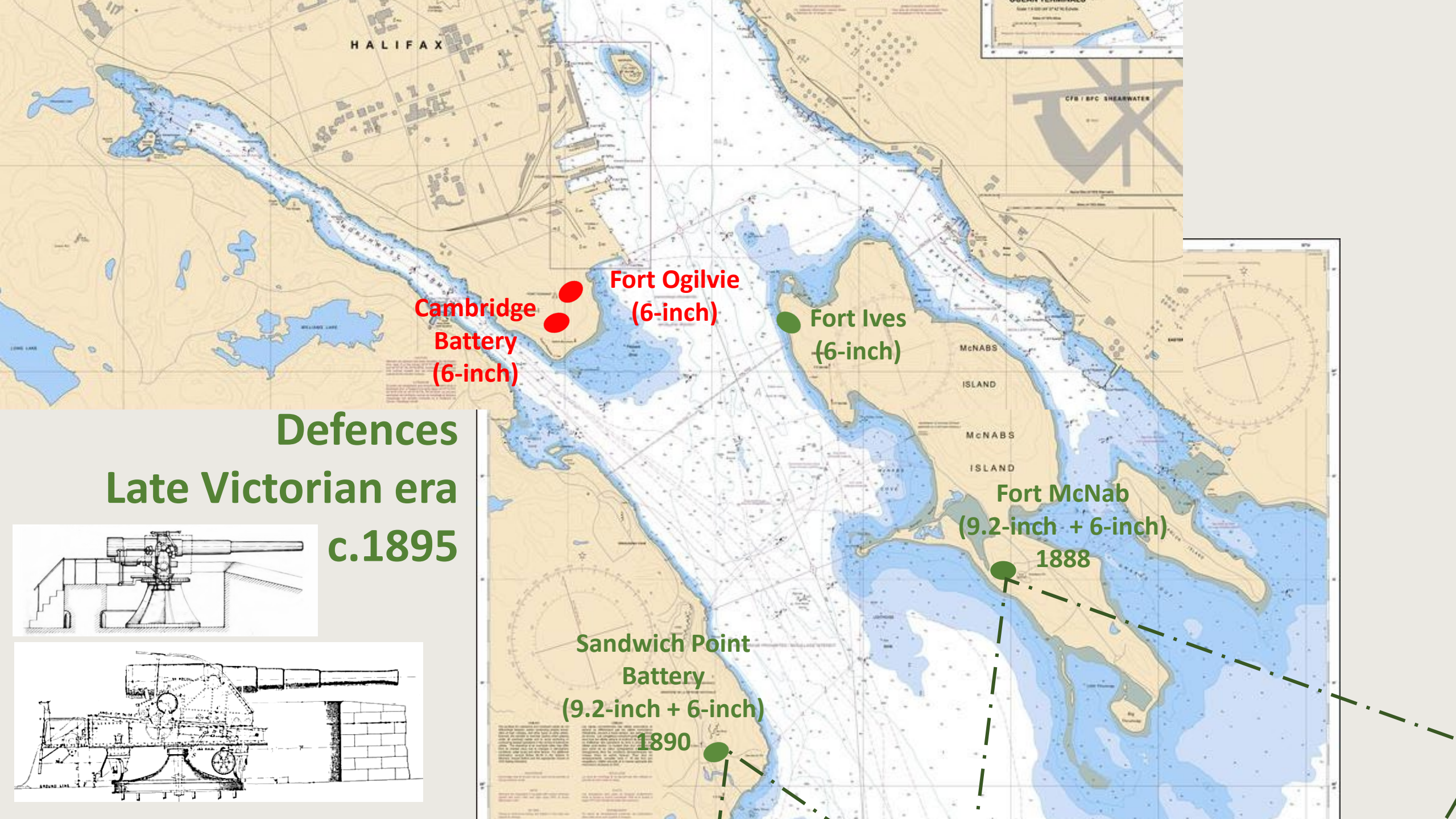
## breech loading gun

Effective range 12,000 yards

Weight of projectile 380 lbs

**1880s**





HALIFAX



CFB / BFC SHEARWATER

Cambridge  
Battery  
(6-inch)

Fort Ogilvie  
(6-inch)

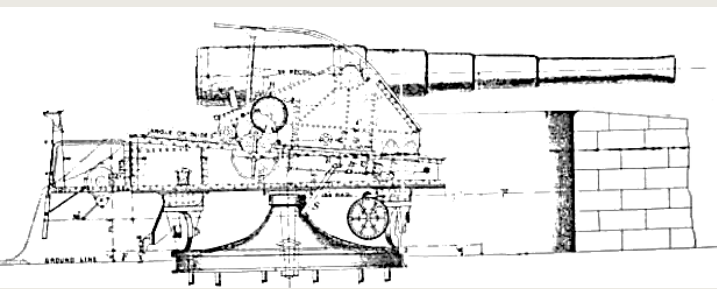
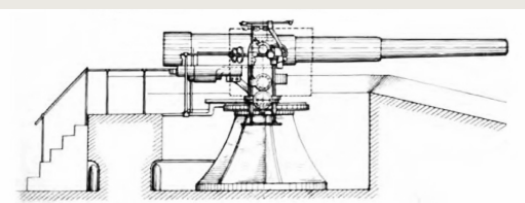
Fort Ives  
(6-inch)

McNABS  
ISLAND  
McNABS  
ISLAND

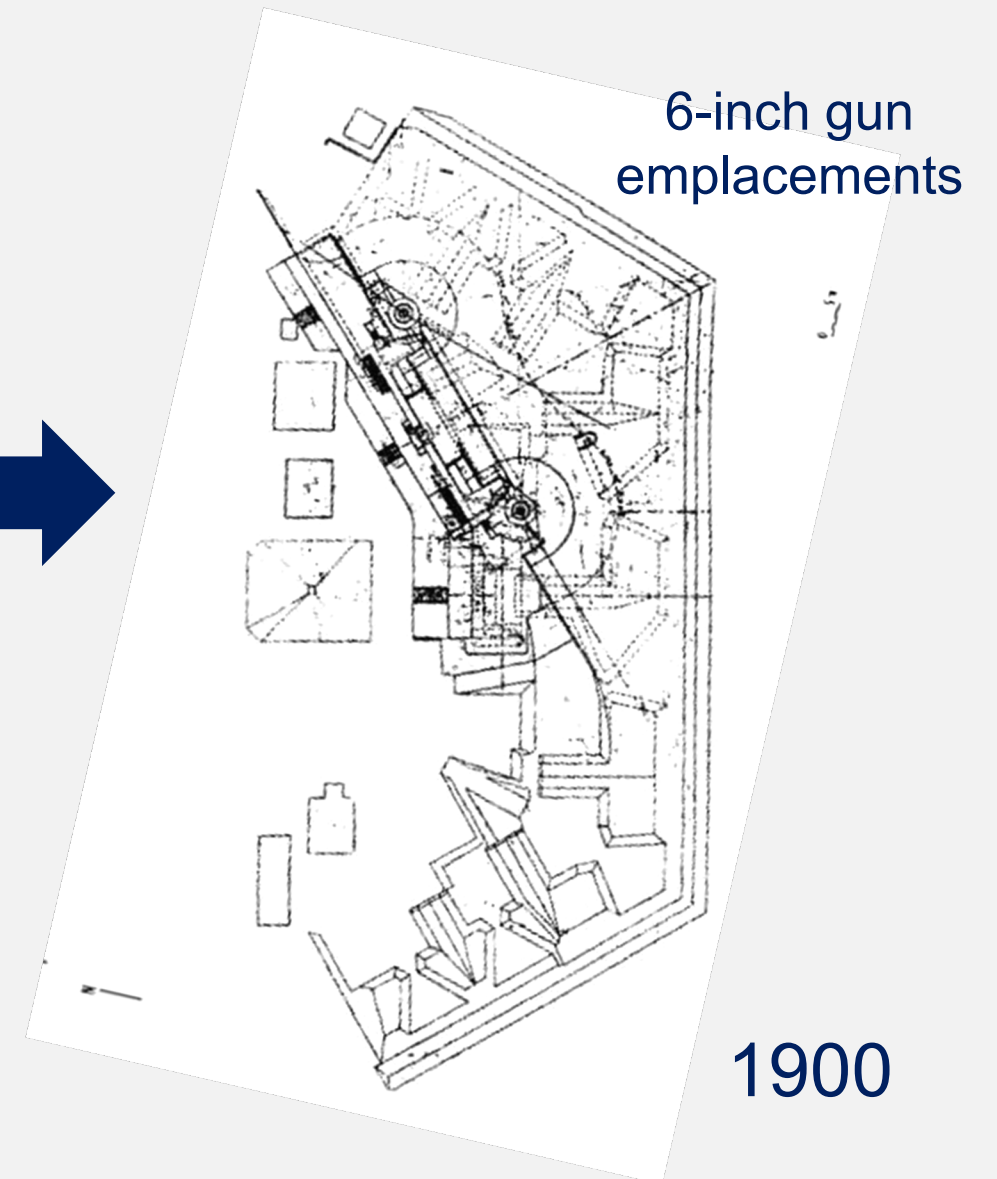
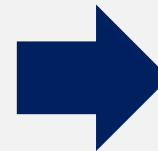
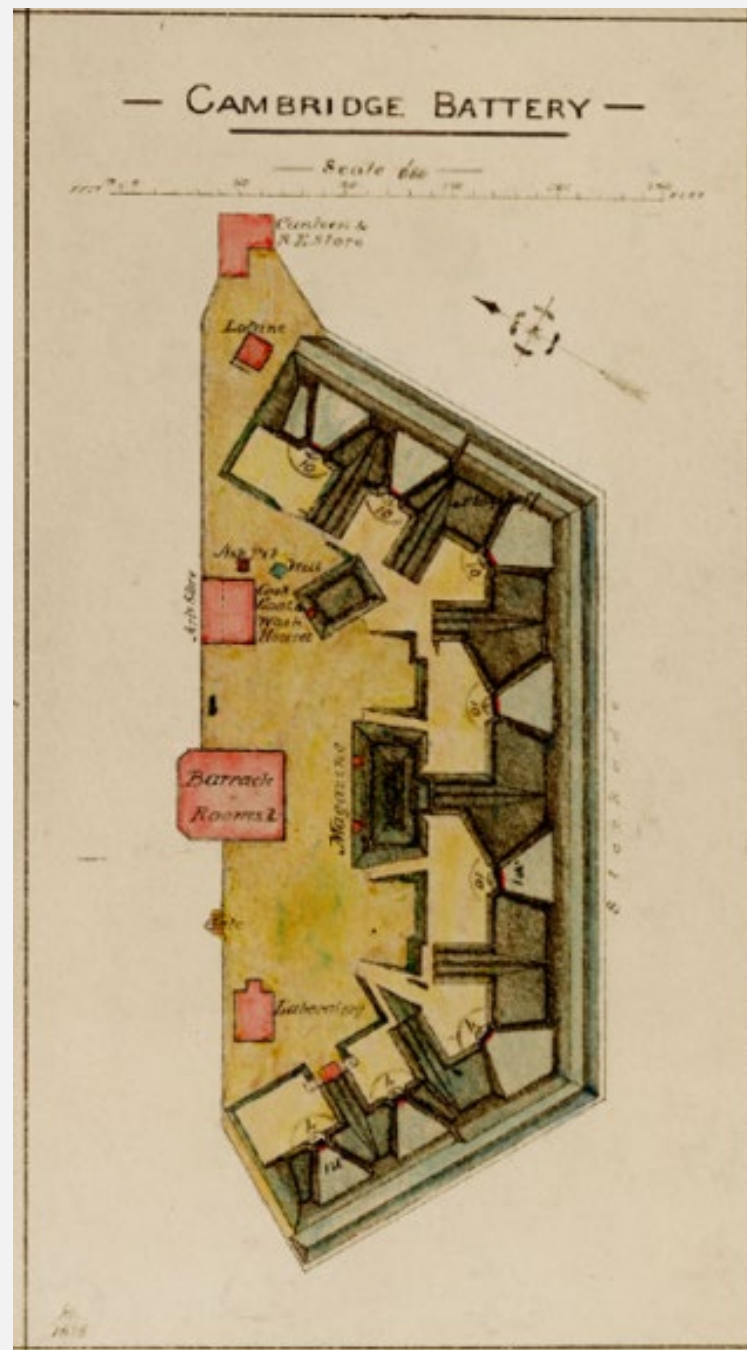
Fort McNab  
(9.2-inch + 6-inch)  
1888

Sandwich Point  
Battery  
(9.2-inch + 6-inch)  
1890

# Defences Late Victorian era c.1895

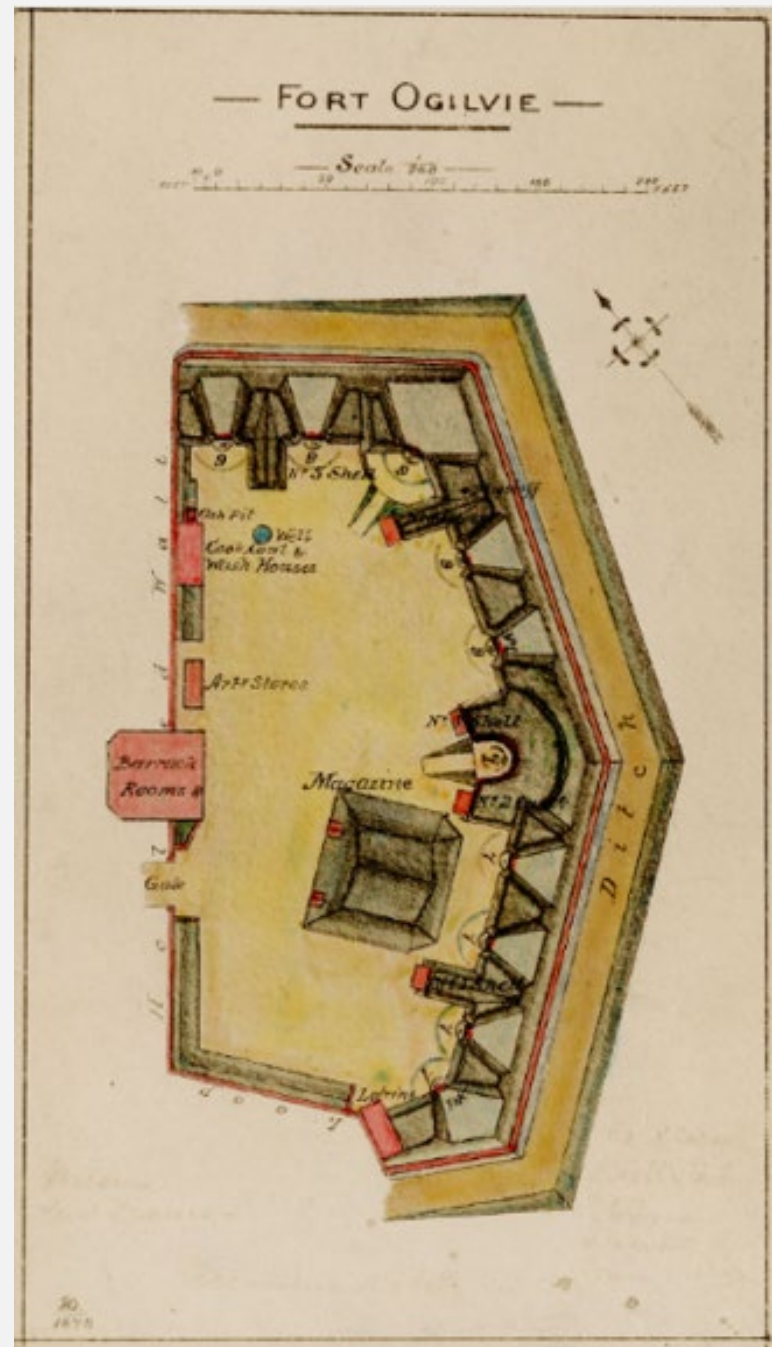








1868



6-inch gun  
emplacements

1900



# Fort Ogilvie

## 6-inch breech-loading gun c1900





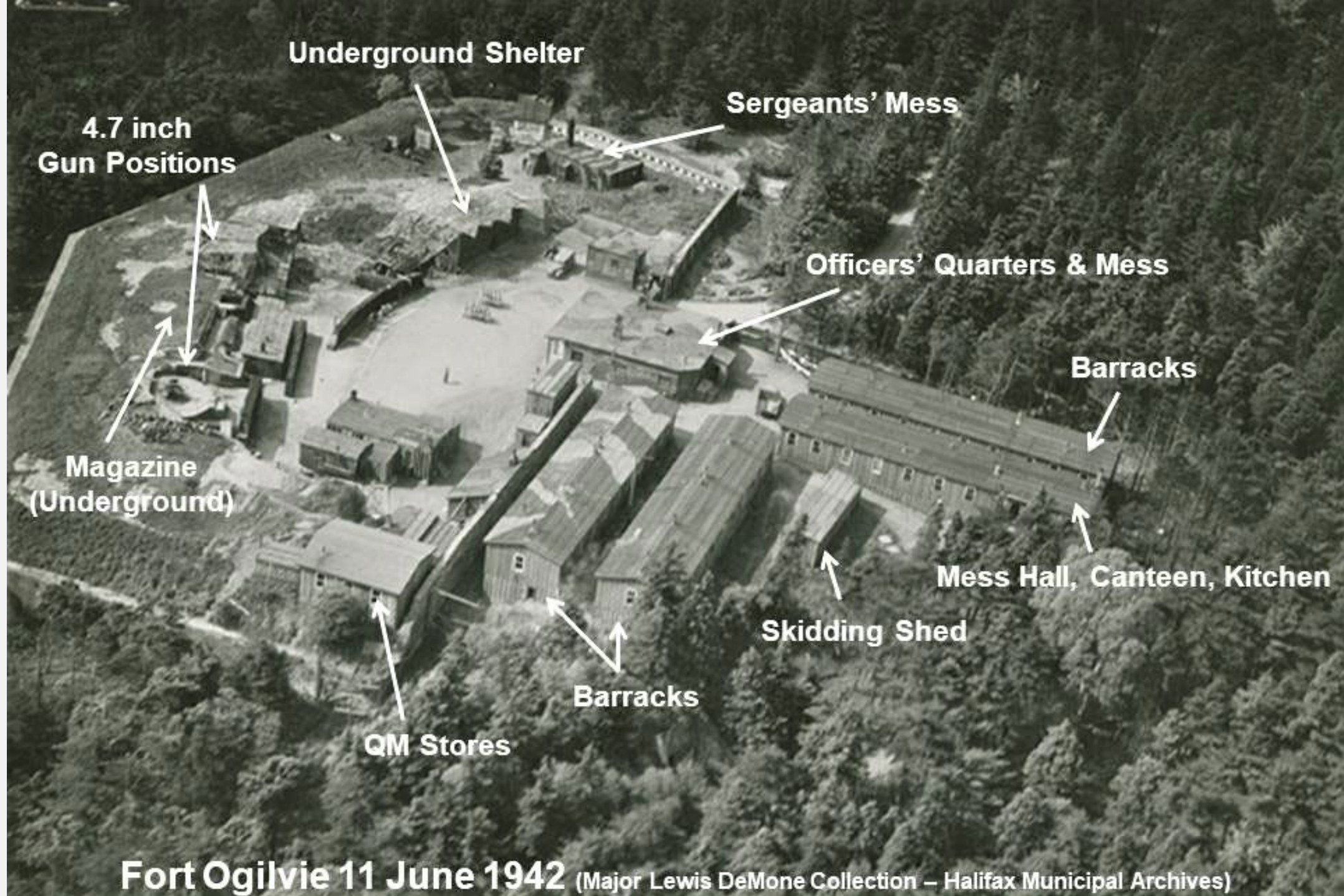


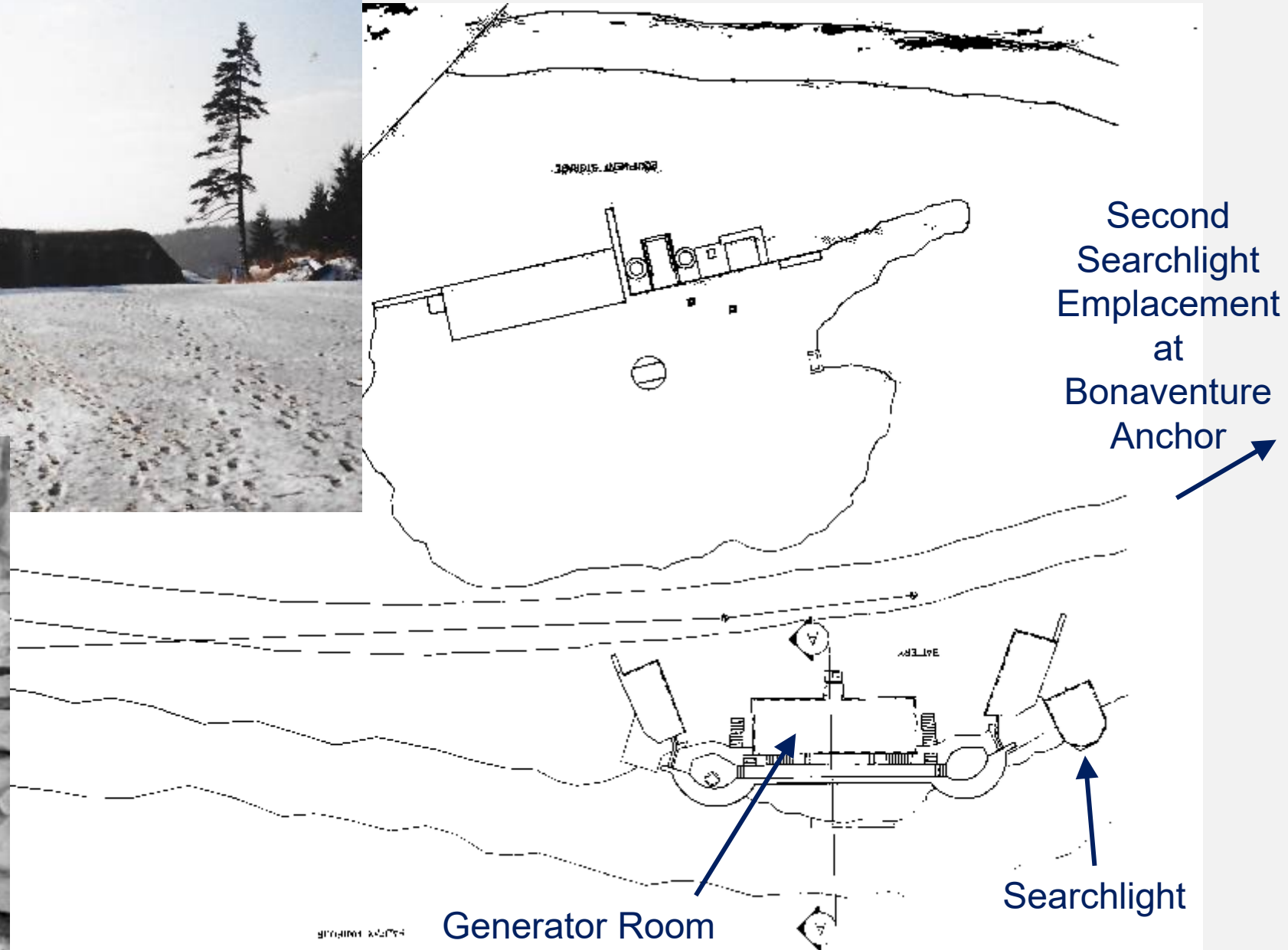


Photo 1997

Searchlight



## Point Pleasant Battery c1939-45





POINT PLEASANT.

Fin

1762-1945 = 183 years

