



# ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA

KINGSTON, ONTARIO

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1830-2/5

1 February 1974

Mr. Howard Trowbridge,  
Chairman,  
Archaeological Committee,  
New York State Divers Assoc.,  
26 1/2 Lincoln Street,  
Auburn, New York, 13021  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Trowbridge:

I must apologize for this extremely late acknowledgement of your letter of 27 August. I suffered a mild coronary on 7 June, and after my return to partial duty on 7 August I was confronted with arrears which still haunt each day I am able to spend at my office.

As my principle responsibility at RMC is to the Library, and as my reference librarians are fully preoccupied with service to our own particular community we are not in a position to deal with external reference queries. From my own knowledge, however, I can, perhaps, offer you a certain amount of information.

First, we own photostats of maps of the Carleton Island area, but they are merely selections from the collections of the Map Division of the Public Archives of Canada, Wellington Street, Ottawa. May I suggest, then, that you present this particular problem to its Director.

There is interesting detail re Carleton and the ships which plied the St. Lawrence prior to 1810 in the Champlain Society volume Kingston before the War 1812, edited by Dr. Richard A. Preston and published for the Society by the University of Toronto Press in 1959.

Of the ships you listed I know little enough, but I would refer you to the "Pye's report on the Provincial Marine" of 7 December, 1811 [PAC "C", v. 373, p. 29 - 36]. In it the 'Duke of Kent' is described as "a snow, now used solely as a barrack for the seamen and incapable of repair", the 'Duke of Gloucester' as "the most useful vessel on the lake" [which] "will shortly require to be replaced". These two ships certainly cannot be identified with the wreck at Carleton Island as we know that they ended their days at Kingston.

I am no authority on the Garrison for the period 1783 - 1810 but I enclose an appendix from Preston which I am sure you will find helpful.

Of the Regiments and Corps in which you are interested, there was a detachment of seven gunners here on the outbreak of War in 1812. It was largely reinforced the following year, and from 1815 - 1854 the Royal Artillery maintained two companies (later called batteries) in Kingston. This force was temporarily reduced to a detachment during the Rebellion of 1837 - 8 and again from 1855 - 1861, but from 1862 until the withdrawal of the Imperials in 1870 there was a full battery in the Garrison.

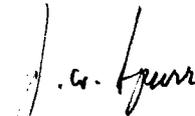
Royal Marines were stationed here from the spring of 1813 for the remainder of the War, and for a few years after 1837.

Both the 1st and 2nd Bns. of the 8th, or King's Regiment were occasionally in Kingston during the War, returned to the U.K. in August, 1815. The 1st Bn. arrived in Halifax early in July, 1808 but was moved to Upper Canada not long after the outbreak of War, serving largely in the York - Niagara area, although five companies participated in the attack Sir George Prevost mounted at Sacket's Harbour from Kingston in April 1813. The 2nd Bn. was marched from New Brunswick through the wilderness to Quebec in February - March, 1814, but saw little action before the Peace.

The 1st Bn. of the 9th (East Norfolk Regiment) also served here briefly during the War, and was in Garrison in 1815 and again from 12 June, 1856 to 7/8 September, 1857. The 47th was in Garrison for the greater part of 1864, the 1st Bn. of the 60th, 1823 - 1824, and the Left Division of the 65th, 1840 - 1841.

Further, in addition to the units listed in the enclosure, there are references to the 21st, 44th and 53rd elsewhere in Preston's text. I should, perhaps, explain that during the period 1783 - 1812 the King's Garrison was normally limited to 200 men, i.e. approximately 2 companies of the Line.

Yours sincerely,



(J.W. Spurr), Chief Librarian,  
Royal Military College of Canada,  
and Chairman, RMC Museum Committee.

JWS:hz

Enc.