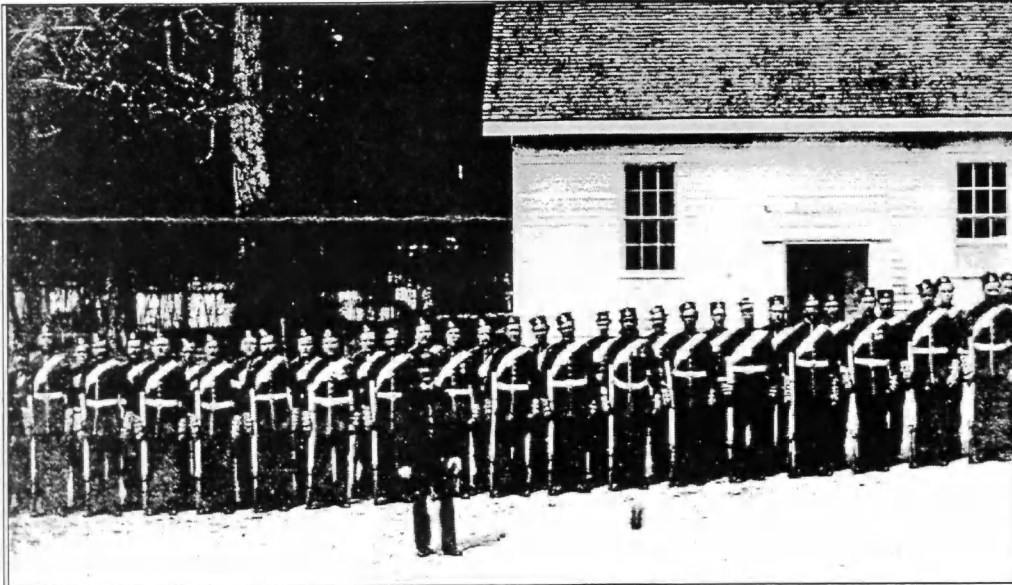


San Juan Island

National Historical Park
Washington
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

English Camp: half a world from home



Shortly after the British and American governments affirmed Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott's proposal to jointly occupy San Juan Island, the Royal Navy started looking for a home for its British Royal Marine Light Infantry contingent.

Capt. James Prevost, commander of the H.M.S. Satellite, selected the site on Garrison Bay — 15 miles northwest of American Camp — from among seven finalists. He'd remembered the site from explorations two years earlier as a part of the water boundary

commission survey of the island. At that time, one of his officers, Lt. Richard Mayne, had commented on seeing abandoned Indian plank houses nestled among a vast shell midden.

Prevost described the ground as "well-sheltered, has a good supply of water and grass, and is capable of affording maneuvering ground for any number of men that are likely to be required in that locality..." He added that a trail, 11 miles long, led from this area to the Hudson's Bay farm at Bellevue.

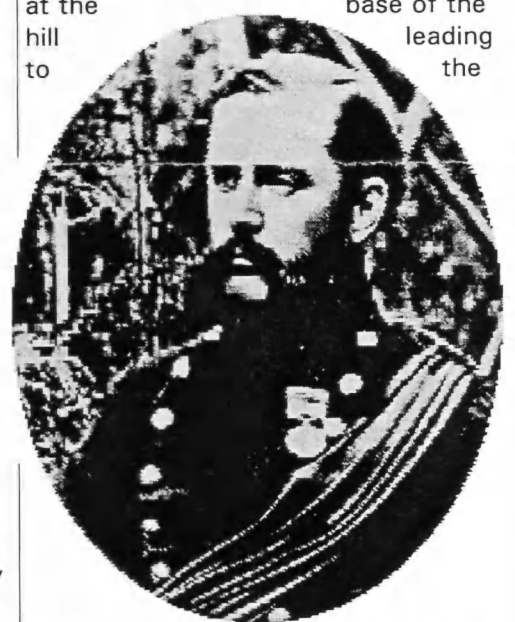
The marines landed on March 21, 1860. They brought along the necessary materials to erect the first building, a commissary about 40 by 20 feet (which still stands). The camp commander, Capt. George Bazalgette, RM, then placed a requisition for "84 tin pannikins, 36 tin plates, 3 "dishes," 10 camp kettles, 18 lanterns, 1 measures set, and a small quantity of stationery."

The command consisted of two subalterns (junior officers), an assistant surgeon and 83 noncommissioned officers and men. After clearing the shore of its thick growth of trees, they erected the commissary and planted a small garden where the formal garden

lies today.

Barracks, cooking houses and other vital structures quickly followed, especially after Rear Adm. R. Lambert Baynes visited in June and pronounced the need for extra pay for the men to prepare the camp for winter. By 1866 the camp was at its peak for the enlisted men. One visitor commented: "We may remark here that the neatness, cleanliness and good order observable throughout the entire camp were the subject of general observation."

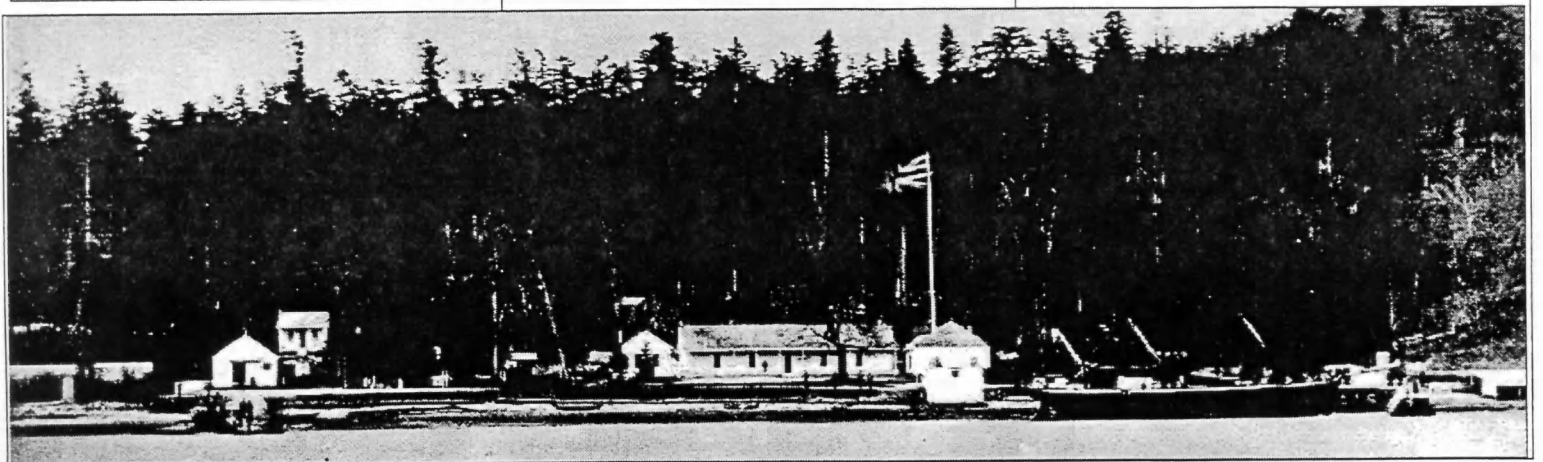
With the arrival of a new commander, Capt. William Delacombe, in 1867, the camp received a major facelift. New officers' quarters were built to house the captain and his family as well as the camp's second in command. Delacombe also directed that a formal garden be constructed at the base of the hill leading to the



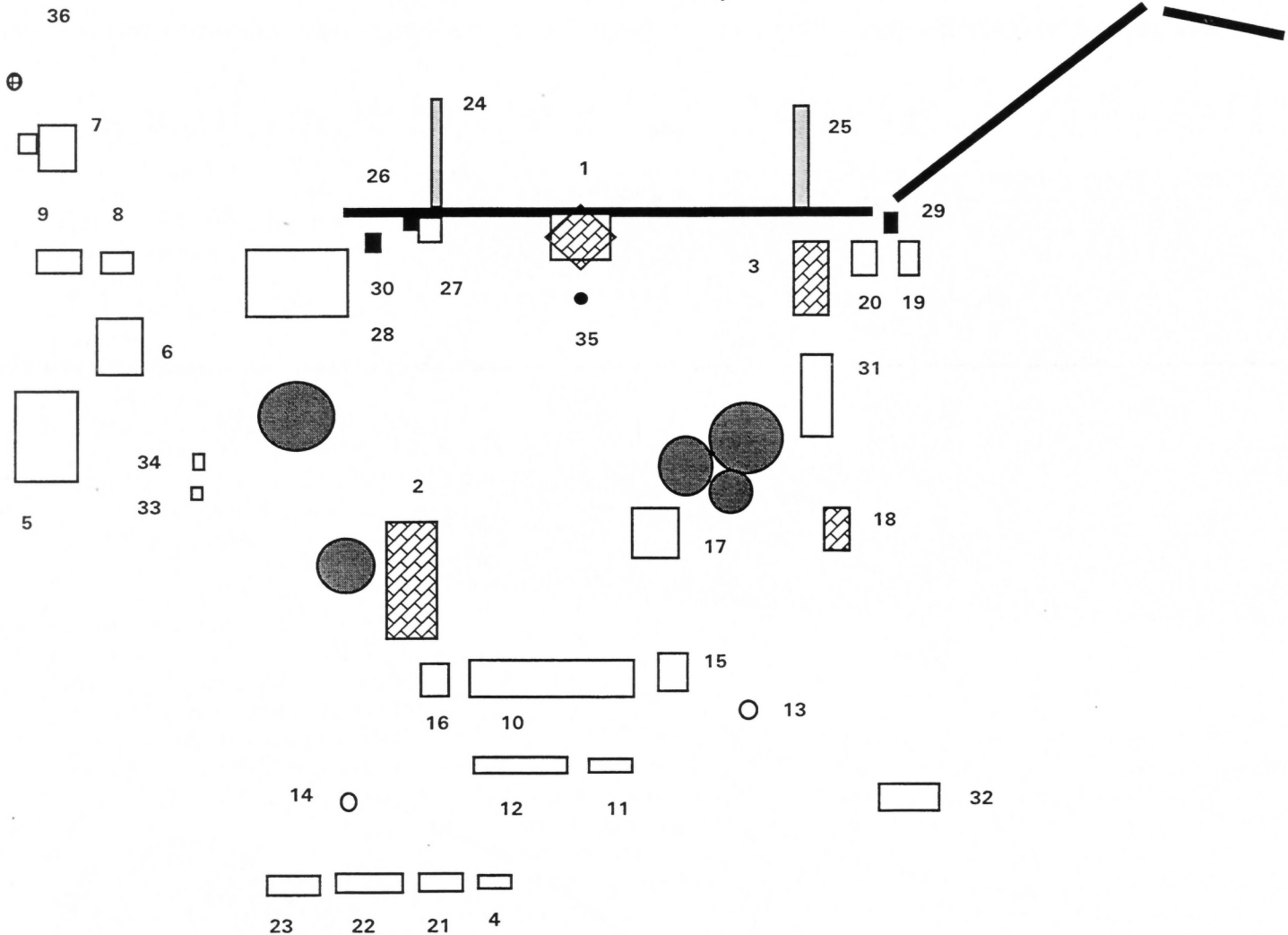
officers' quarters.

The marines departed in November 1872, following the final boundary decision of Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany. They left behind a facility so solidly built that the Crook family (who purchased the site from the U.S. government) occupied several of the structures for more than 30 years.

Unlike American Camp where, because of the American Civil War, the garrison turned over many times, English Camp was manned by pretty much the same troops over its 12-year span. Suicides, drownings and an accidental gunshot wound (to a brother of one of the marines) claimed seven lives over that time. Only two commanders served from quarters atop the hill overlooking the formal garden, the first being Capt. George Bazalgette (right). The camp was always noted for its pristine beauty from the bay.



Garrison Bay

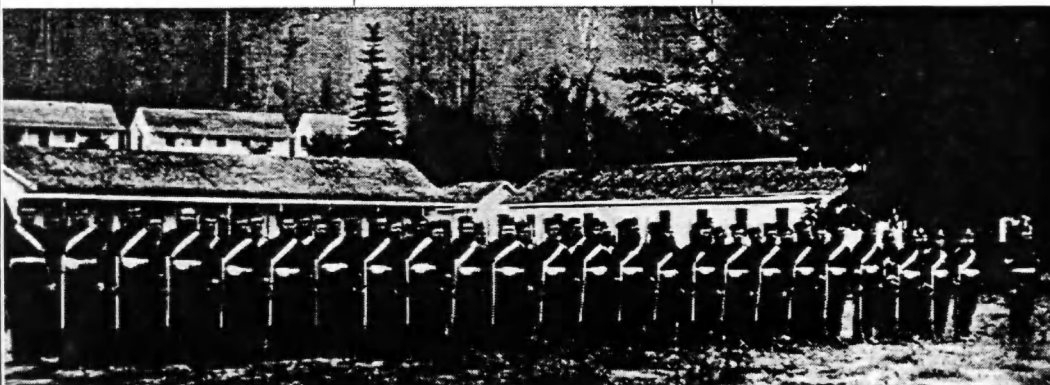


English Camp

Plan of Post 1860-1872

Key to Structures

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Blockhouse | 11. Wash & Bath House | 19. Stable & Storehouse | 27. Possibly Boathouse |
| 2. Barracks | 12. Wash & Bath House | 20. Stable & Storehouse | 28. Formal Garden |
| 3. Storehouse | 13. Well | 21. Messhouse | 29. Sentry Box |
| 4. Bakery or Blacksmith | 14. Well | 22. School & Library | 30. Sentry Box |
| 5. Captain's Quarters | 15. Unidentified | 23. Carpenter & Mill | 31. Unidentified |
| 6. Married Subaltern | 16. Unidentified | 24. Wharf | 32. Unidentified |
| 7. Surgeon | 17. Unidentified | 25. Pier | 33. Unidentified |
| 8. Single Subaltern | 18. Hospital | 26. Possibly Storage | 34. Unidentified |
| 9. Officers' Mess | | | 35. Flagstaff |
| 10. Barracks | | | 36. Birdhouse |
| | | | 37. Crook House |



British Royal Marine Light Infantry stand at attention on the parade ground.

 Existing Structures

 Trees

 Not Interpreted as part of the NPS mission statement

