Esquimalt men, members of the Canadian Army Pioneer Corps, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel H. E. Hodgins, just prior to leaving on the long journey to England, October 1915.

Nursing Sisters of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, marching from the Menzies Street Drill Hall, James Bay, August 1915. They would board the SS Princess Mary on the first part of their journey overseas.

The 5th Regiment (Gordon Highlanders) was a locally-based unit. Part of the Canadian militia, they recruited for the Canadian Expeditionary Force with many serving overseas with the 14 Battalion of the Canadian Scottish. The unit also guarded numerous local strategic sites.

Soccer game at Work Point Barracks. Established in 1887 for “C” Battery, Regiment of Canadian Artillery, Work Point became a hub of military activity. During World War I it was Military District #11 Headquarters, a recruiting, logistics and training facility where instruction ranged from theoretical battle tactics to trench and bridge construction for officers and other ranks.

Soldiers of the 5th General Hospital, Canadian Army Medical Corps. Raised in our area, the unit served in Salonika, Greece.

The 5th General Hospital, Canadian Army Medical Corps, circa 1916.

Nursing Sister Gladys Maude Mary Wake, born in Esquimalt in 1883, joined the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in 1916 while living in England. She died May 21, 1918, the result of enemy action. She was buried with full military honours in Etaples, France.

Unidentified crew members of HMCS Rainbow.

HMCS Rainbow, an Apollo-class light cruiser acquired from the Royal Navy in 1910 as part of the newly formed Canadian navy, was stationed at Esquimalt during WWI. Rainbow patrolled the BC Coast waging sub-hunting and shipping.

Astronomer Dr. Harry Plaskett, son of internationally known astronomer and long-time Esquimalt resident Dr. John Plaskett, served in World War I.

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