

From Victoria to Vladivostok: Canada's Siberian Expedition 1917-19

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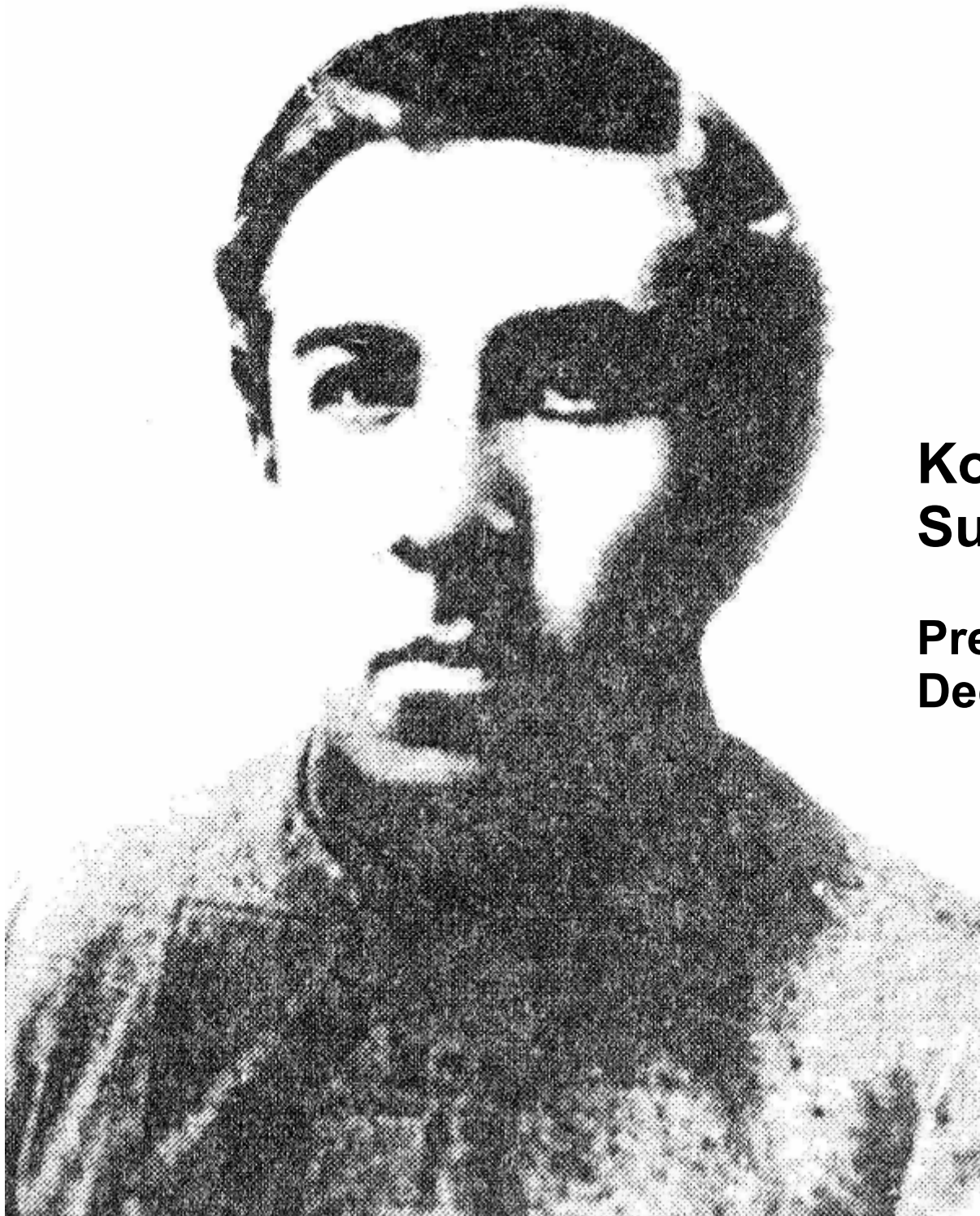
Petrograd, 1917



**Railway rolling stock, Vladivostok
~ 1918**

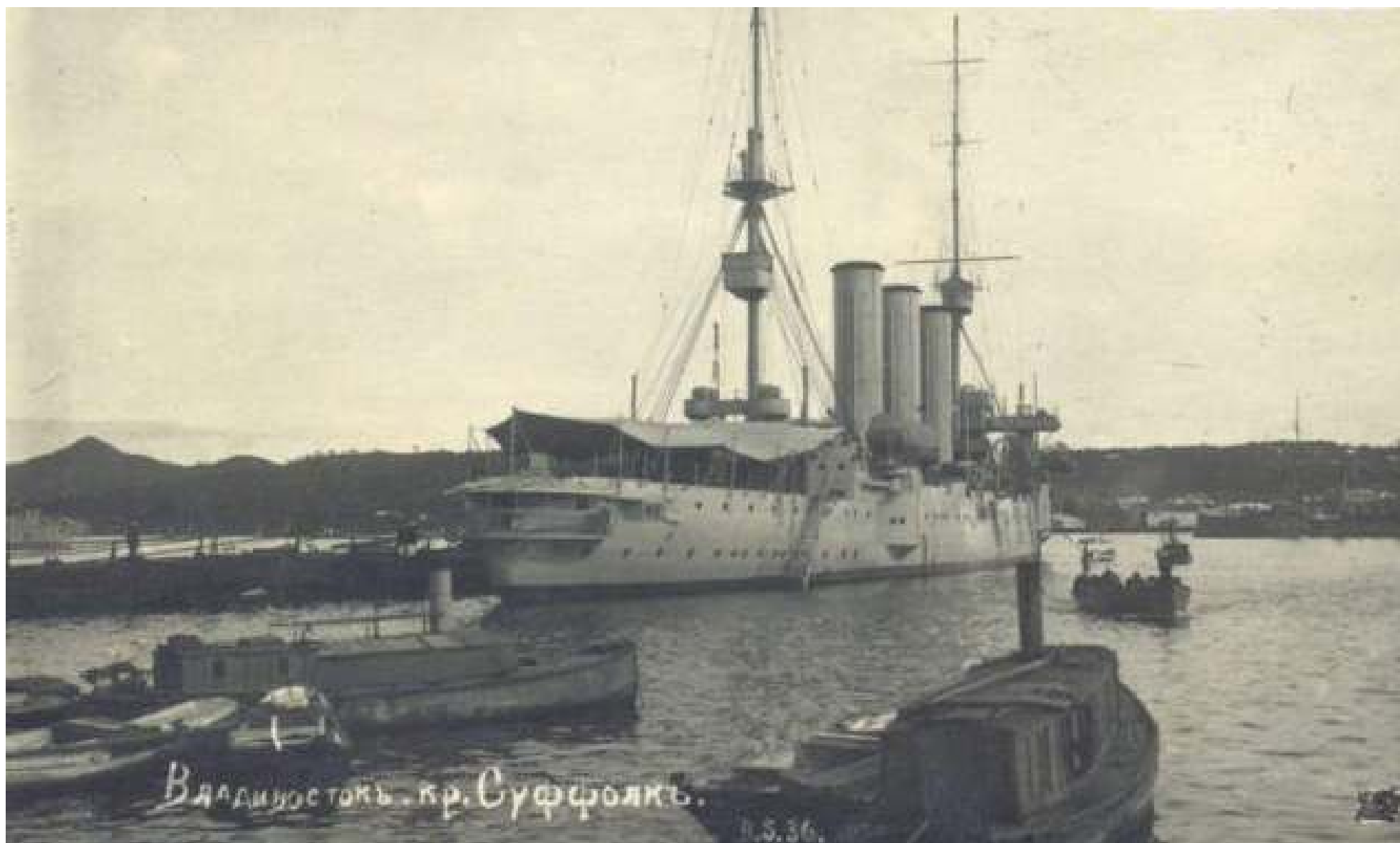
Общій Видъ Г. Владивостокъ.
Birds Eye View of Vladivostock.
景全德斯塔浦
— 3 —





**Konstantin “Kosta”
Sukhanov**

**President of Vladivostok Soviet
December 1917-28 June 1918**



**British cruiser *HMS Suffolk* in Vladivostok's *Zolotoy Rog*
~ March 1918**



**Allied troops overthrow Vladivostok Soviet,
June 1918**



Red Funeral of Vladivostok, 4 July 1918

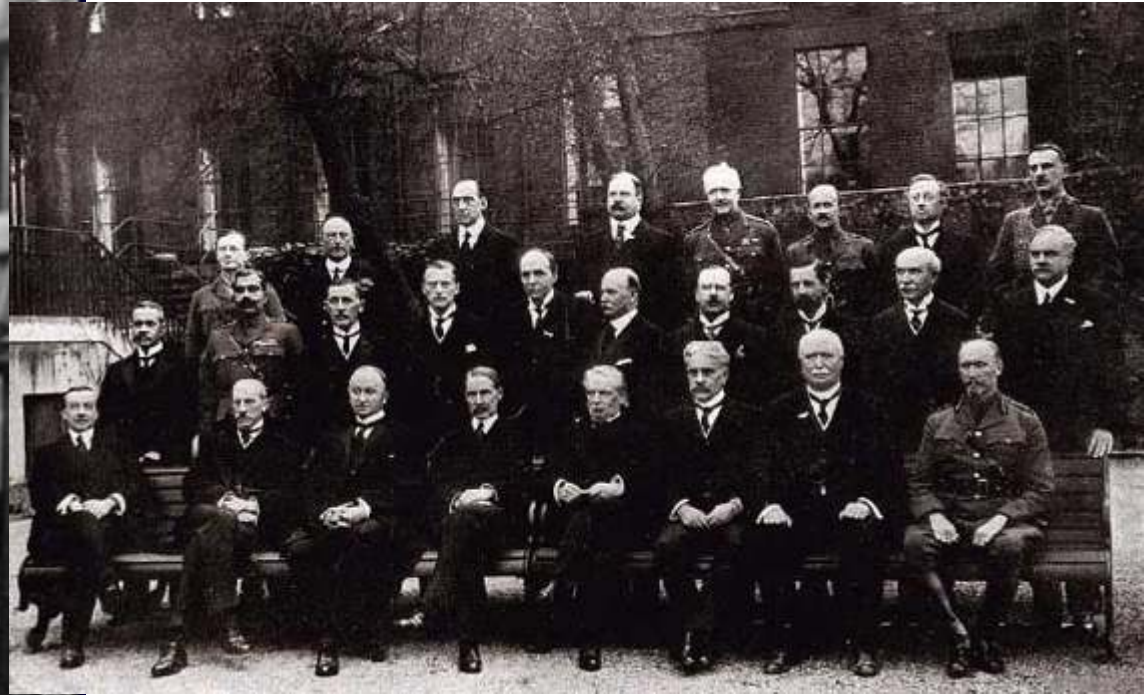
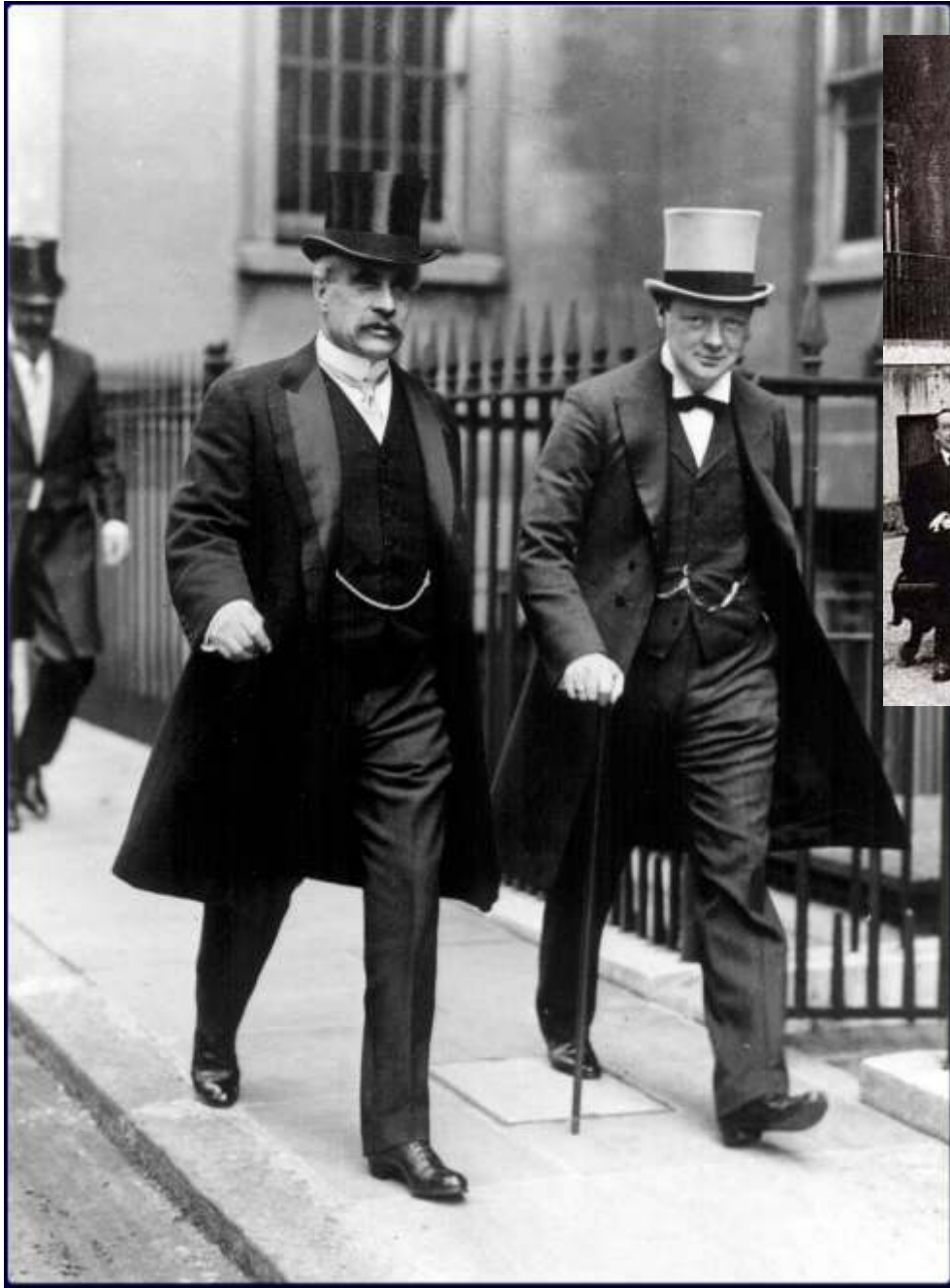


General Dmitri Horvath

**White Russian governor
of Eastern Siberia,
July 1918-January 1920**



American soldiers march into Vladivostok, August 1918



**Imperial War Cabinet,
London**

**Canadian Prime Minister Robert Borden
(and a young Winston Churchill)**

Canada's intervention in the Russian Civil War



Murmansk
"Syren Party"
600 Canadians

Archangelsk
"Elope Party"
500 Canadians

Baku
"Dunsterforce"
41 Canadians

Vladivostok
"Siberian Expeditionary Force"
4,192 Canadians



20th Machine Company (CSEF)

**“Marching out of Petawawa,”
by C.W. Jeffreys (1918)**



**Canadian soldiers travelling west through the Rocky Mountains,
October 1918**



**Soldiers in barracks, New Westminster
November 1918**



**Inspection of the troops, 259th Battalion,
Willows Camp, Victoria
November 1918**



**Armistice
11 November 1918**



**Soldiers on day leave from the Willows Camp, Victoria
December 1918**



**Canadian soldiers at “Hands Off Russia” meeting
Victoria, December 1918**



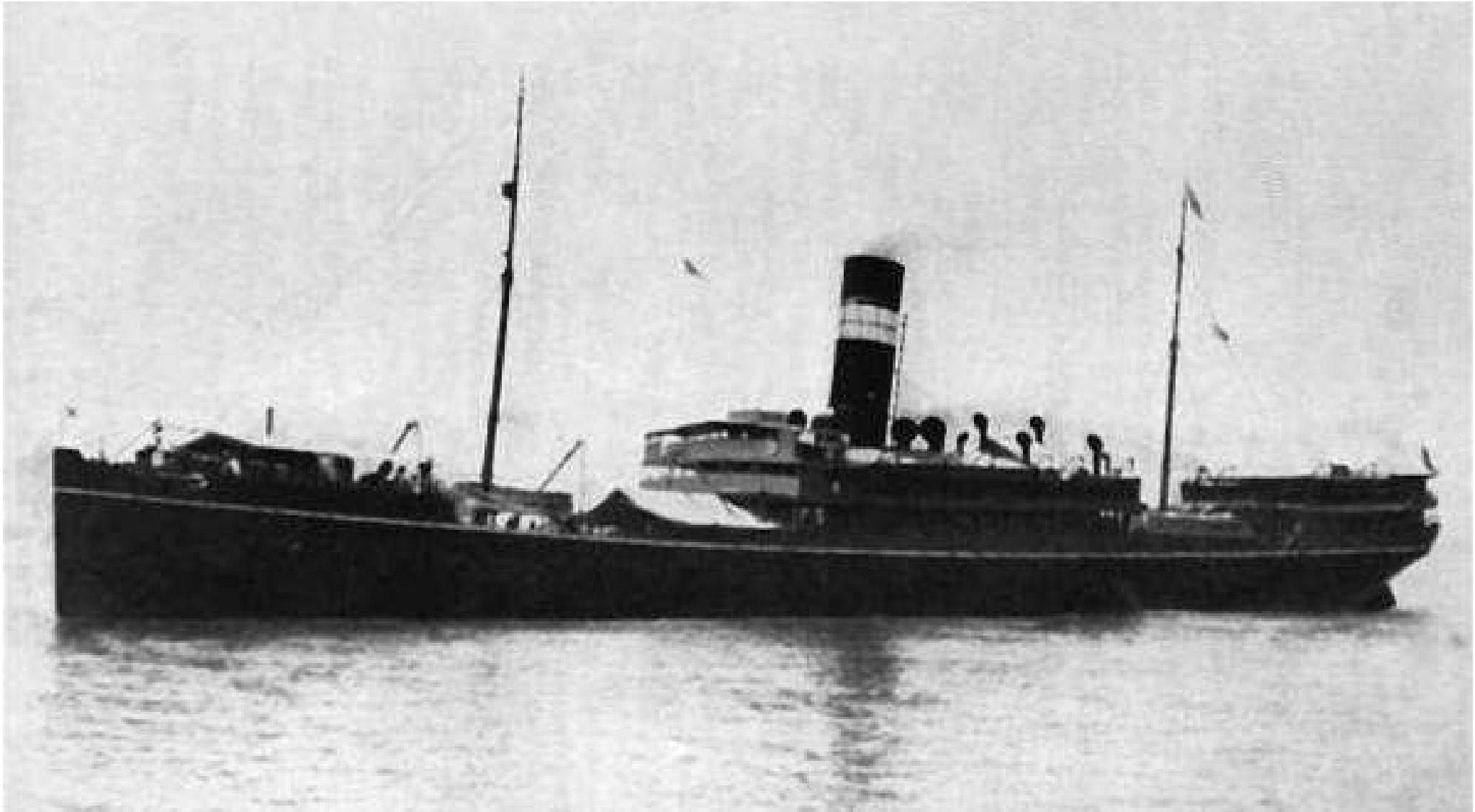
Soldiers marching to ship, Victoria, December 1918



Fort & Quadra

**“Departure Day”
mutiny**

21 Dec. 1918



SS *Teesta*
“Departure Day” Mutiny
21 December 1918





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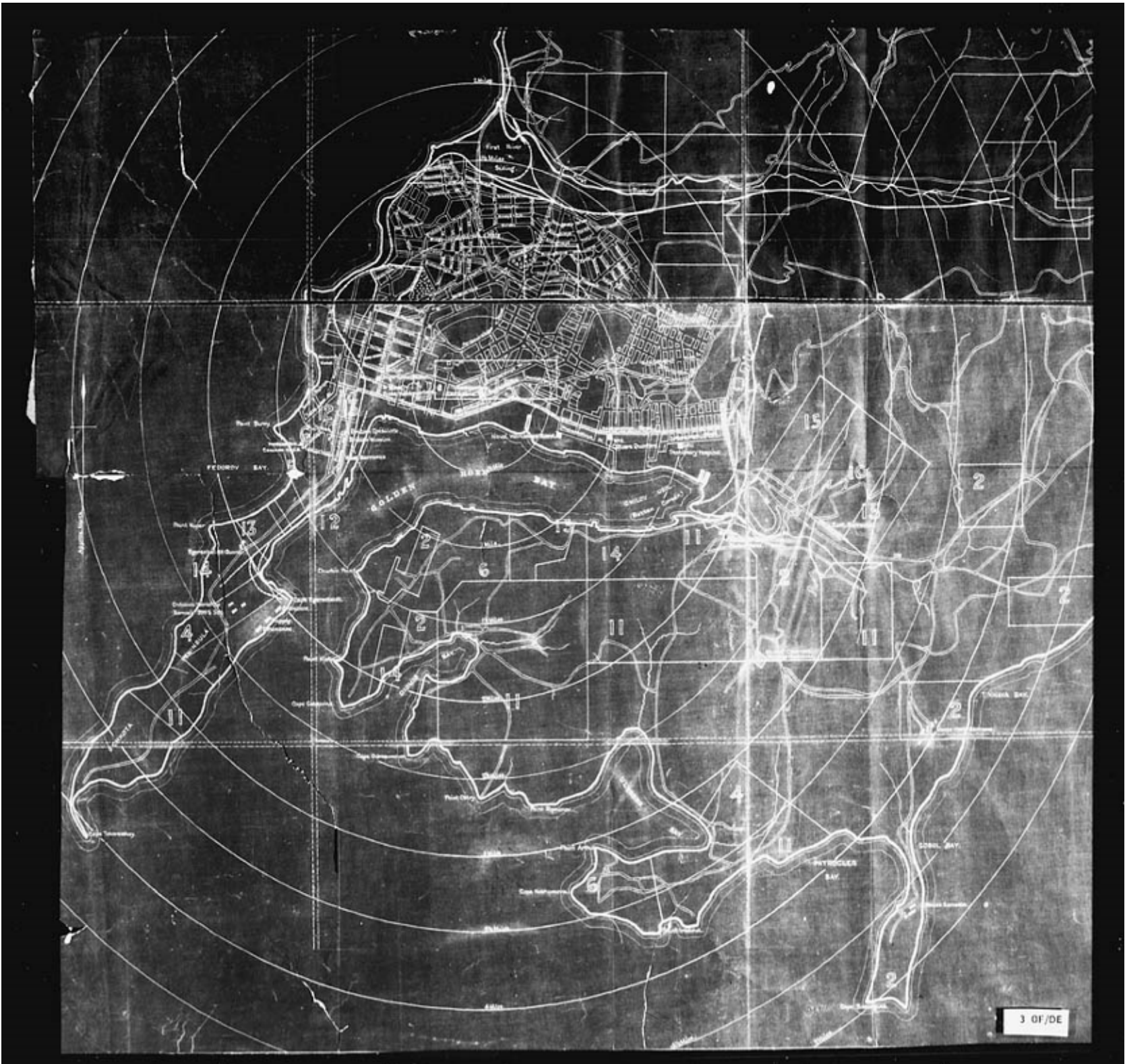
Общій Видъ Г. Владивостокъ.
Birds Eye View of Vladivostock.
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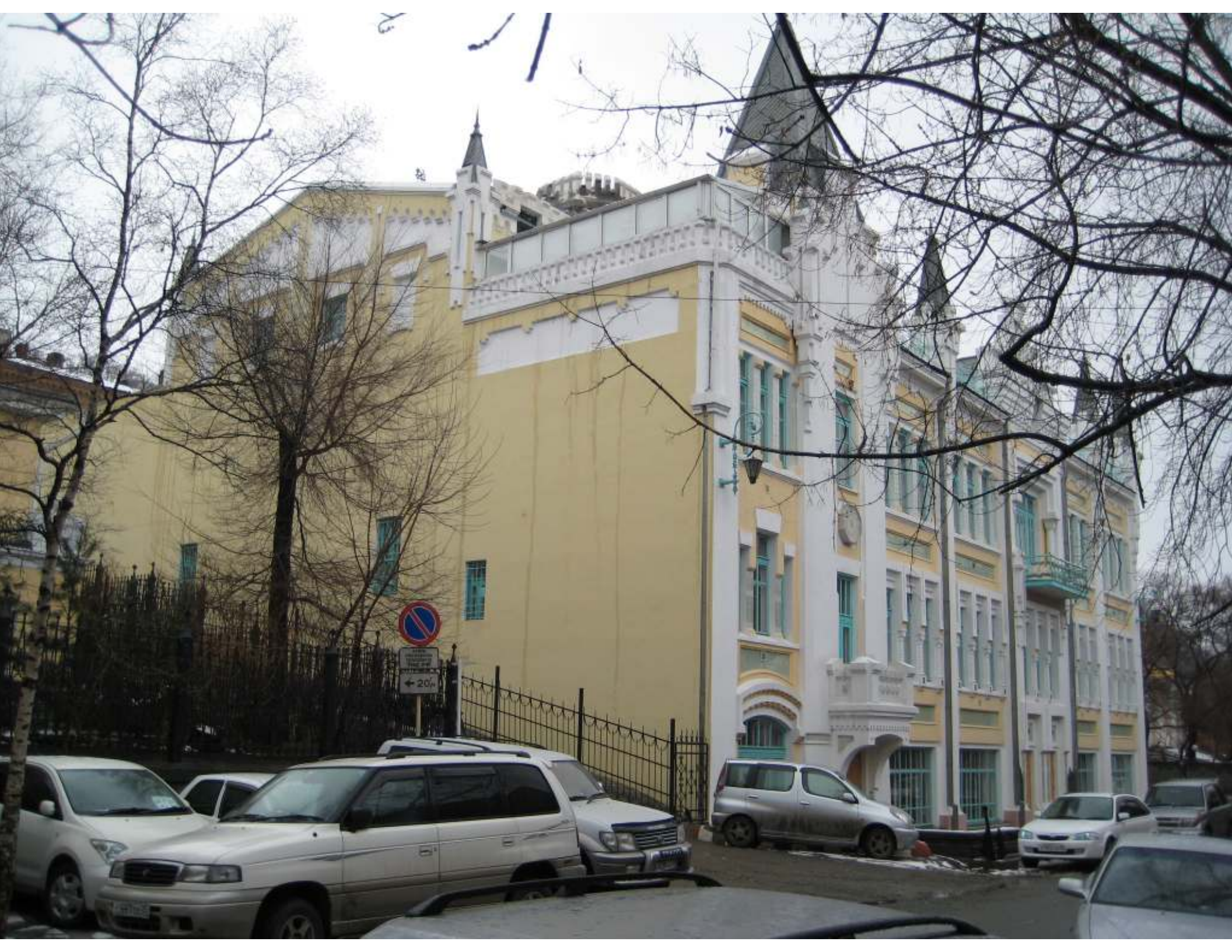
ФУНИКУЛЕР

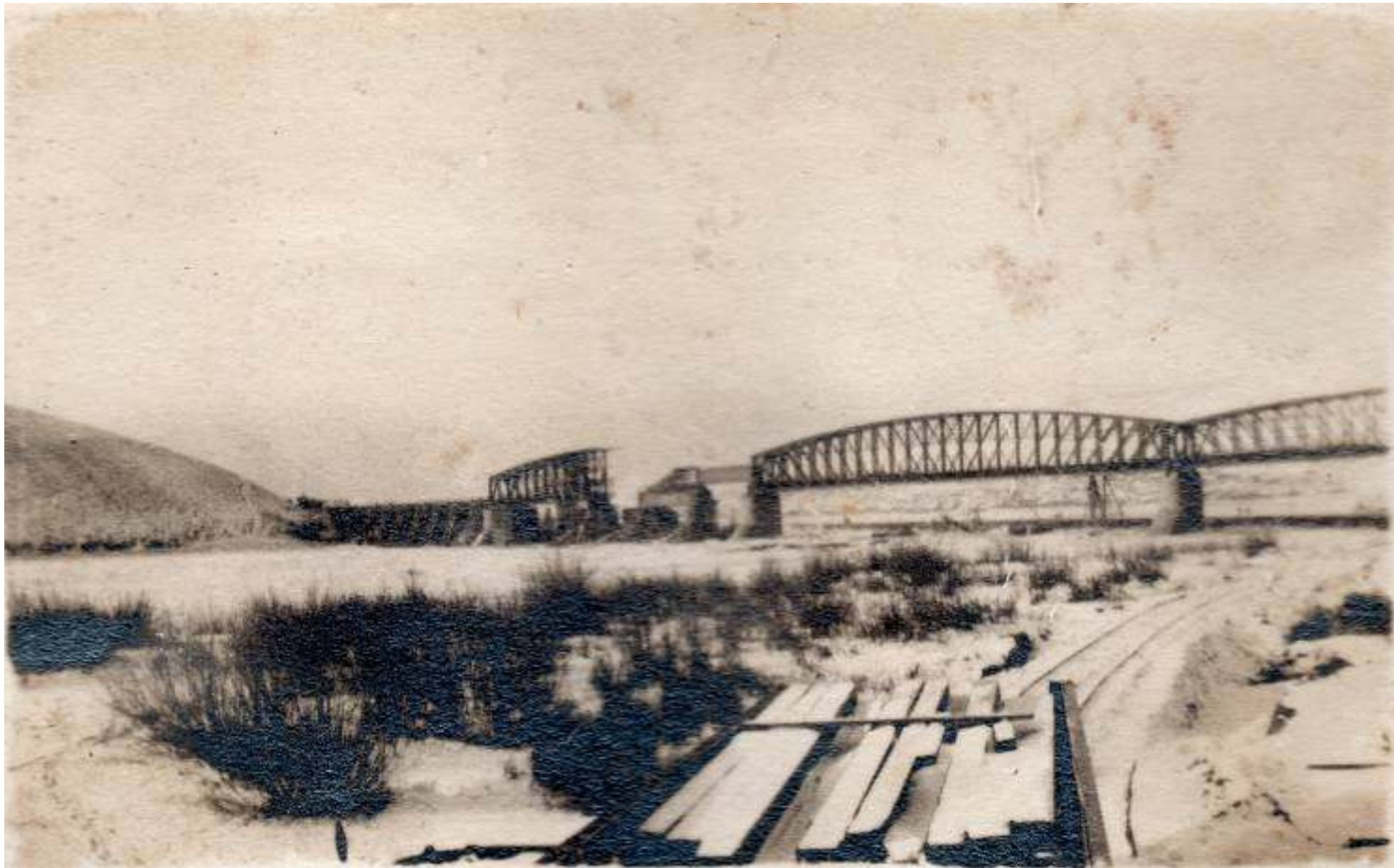
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
РИСКА



**Pushkinsky Theatre,
Canadian force headquarters,
27 October 1918-5 June 1919**







**Railway bridge destroyed by Partizans
Siberia, 1919**



Мост через р. Иртыш, взорванный колчаковцами (1919)





Omsk, Capital of “White Siberia” and headquarters of Kolchak’s government



Shkotovo April 1919





Communiqué No. 5 2.30 PM
April 18, 1919

Shikotova

Proclamation issued by the
Farmers + Workmen Volunteers of the
Province of Prunoshkaya.

We farmers who aim to affect the
revolution of farmers + workmen
issue the following Proclamation
We do not recognize any allied
command because the Japanese

English, French Italian, + American
governments are endeavoring to bring
against the Great Russian revolution
which marks the beginning of
Liberty, for the working classes of
the whole world profiting by the
state of ~~chaos~~ chaos in Russia the
~~interfering~~ allied countries with
false promises of not interfering
in the internal affairs of the
country have invaded our



Diary of
Rfn. Sidney Rodger,
'A' Company of the
259th Battalion

“We demand that you evacuate our territory and go back from where you came. If you will not submit to this order we will not give you one inch of the railway which we have built with our very blood ... Remember that in this we are not alone but the working classes of the whole world are with us.”

-Gavrila Shevchenko

Commander-in-chief of partisan detachment
Proclamation to Allied command, Vladivostok
April 1919





Canadian equipment garage, Egerscheld, 1919



THE SIBERIAN SAPPER

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Vol. 1—No. 4.

FEBRUARY 8, 1919.

PRICE—ONE ROUBLE

What Are We Doing Here?

(By an Amateur Guesser)

The Canadian in Vladivostok counts that day lost wherein he has not heard a rumour about going home. Some days he is informed that the transport will sail in two months; on other occasions a pessimist raises the bid to two years. At Egorsneidt you find a chap keeping his trunk ready packed against a sudden warning for Canada. At Gournastai there's a man who believes that some of us will get to Vancouver some day if we're not too old to stand the voyage. No harm being interested in the general subject of getting home again, but the bald fact appears to be that none of us know anything about it. We'll have to leave it "up to" the Peace Conference.

None of us are supposed to dabble in Russian politics. Which is mighty fortunate, on the whole, since only those of us who started life as Russians could make head or tail of this complicated maze of political thought. Two or three parties are about all the average Canadian can digest. Twenty-seven are beyond comprehension. This is not a political treatise, for reasons just stated, but merely a contribution to the argument that goes on nightly in every barracks in this neck of the woods. The theme is: What are we doing here (except just staying,) and why did we come, and when will we go home?

It was simple enough at the beginning. Something had to be done to divert the attention of Germany on the east front so that Foch could mop them up on the west. The Russian Bolsheviks were, and are, a pro-German organization, so it was well within the provinces of the Allies to attack them. Britain was too much occupied to spare troops for

Siberia, so she turned to Canada in her hour of need,—and here we are, representing, with a few Imperial troops, the British Empire in the Russian Far East. And in the meantime the armistice came along, after the Hun had had enough of fighting, and the Russian situation took on an entirely new aspect. For there was no longer need of an eastern front against Germany. The Canadian force that started out to be an active fighting unit against the Bolsheviks and Germans remained to be a cog in a diplomatic wheel. And it is now the duty of the Peace Conference to decide what the next move is to be, withdrawal from

spreading their doctrines in every country in the world, hoping for widespread anarchy. There is a mad dog running loose among the nations, and it would seem to be the duty of the nations to handle it as mad dogs usually are handled.

It is well to remember that in the early stages of the war Russia practically committed suicide to save the Allies on the west front. Her troops, many of them inadequately armed, were hurled against the Hun in immense numbers, and there was slaughter such as perhaps the world had never seen before. If later on her fighting power was paralysed by internal intrigue, the British must not forget Russia's generous martyrdom at the outset. Something must be done to save the remnant of Russia's best from the murdering, torturing hordes who showed their true character in the sack of Perm. That is one view of the question. Another, less altruistic, is that there can never be full peace in the world while Bolshevism rules in Russia.

Although they have done little or no actual fighting, the British forces in Siberia have certainly accomplished something for the Russian cause. There has been a moral effect, at least. Well informed Russians admit that withdrawal of Allied troops would give the signal for a new outbreak of Bolshevism in Siberia. There would be another carnival of blood. No man with a collar and tie would be safe. The able, the educated, would be massacred. That is the Bolshevik way. Withdrawal would be regarded by the best of the Russians as a terrible calamity. The Bolsheviks, preparing at once to bring to light their hidden stores of rifles and machine guns, would welcome it.

Of course, it is difficult to see how the Russian problem will right itself for a long time to come. Actual crushing of the Bolshevik armies, disarmament, creation of a trustworthy army and navy—all these things would seem to be necessary before the Russian Parliament could safely carry on. That must be decided at the Peace Conference. It is unthinkable that the Allies should dictate to Russia what her future form of government is to be. Russians must work out the salvation of Russia. But there is need of a helping hand while the Bolshevik mad dog is abroad, and somehow or other, it seems very likely that the Allies will do their part.

This is one version of things, merely a contribution to that endless debate that makes up so large a part of Siberian Nights Entertainments. It does not answer one question: How long will we stay here? That matter is still on the knees of the gods.

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the country, futher watchful waiting or a campaign in Russia.

Leaving aside all discussion of Russian political parties and political views, I cannot agree with the opinion so frequently expressed that the Canadians or British have no business in Russia to-day. So long as the Bolshevik armies hold European Russia terrorized it cannot be said that the German menace is at an end. The Bolshevik government, we are informed, has never been truly Russian. It has been composed largely of men of other than Russian blood, desperate fanatics in many cases. Bolshevik armies are led by Germans and Austrians who are not at all anxious to see peace and order restored in the world. Bolshevik missionaries are



Canadian baseball team, Vladivostok, 1919



Gymkhana, Vladivostok, 1 May 1919



Canadian barracks at Gornostai Bay, outside Vladivostok









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ПОЧТА РОССИИ



Canadian barracks at Vtoraya Rechka, Vladivostok, 1 May 1919









**Nursing Matron
Grace Eldrida Potter**







Sex-trade workers

**“Kopek Hill,”
Vladivostok**



Vladivostok vagsal, 1919







Private Edwin Stephenson, Vladivostok Chinese Market, 1919



**Edwin Stephenson
Anglican priest**

July 1918



**Edwin Stephenson grave
Vladivostok Marine Cemetery
1919**



**Edwin Stephenson grave
Vladivostok Marine Cemetery
2009**





RESTING PLACE
A. H. THRING
DECEASED CANADIAN
15TH MARCH 1915

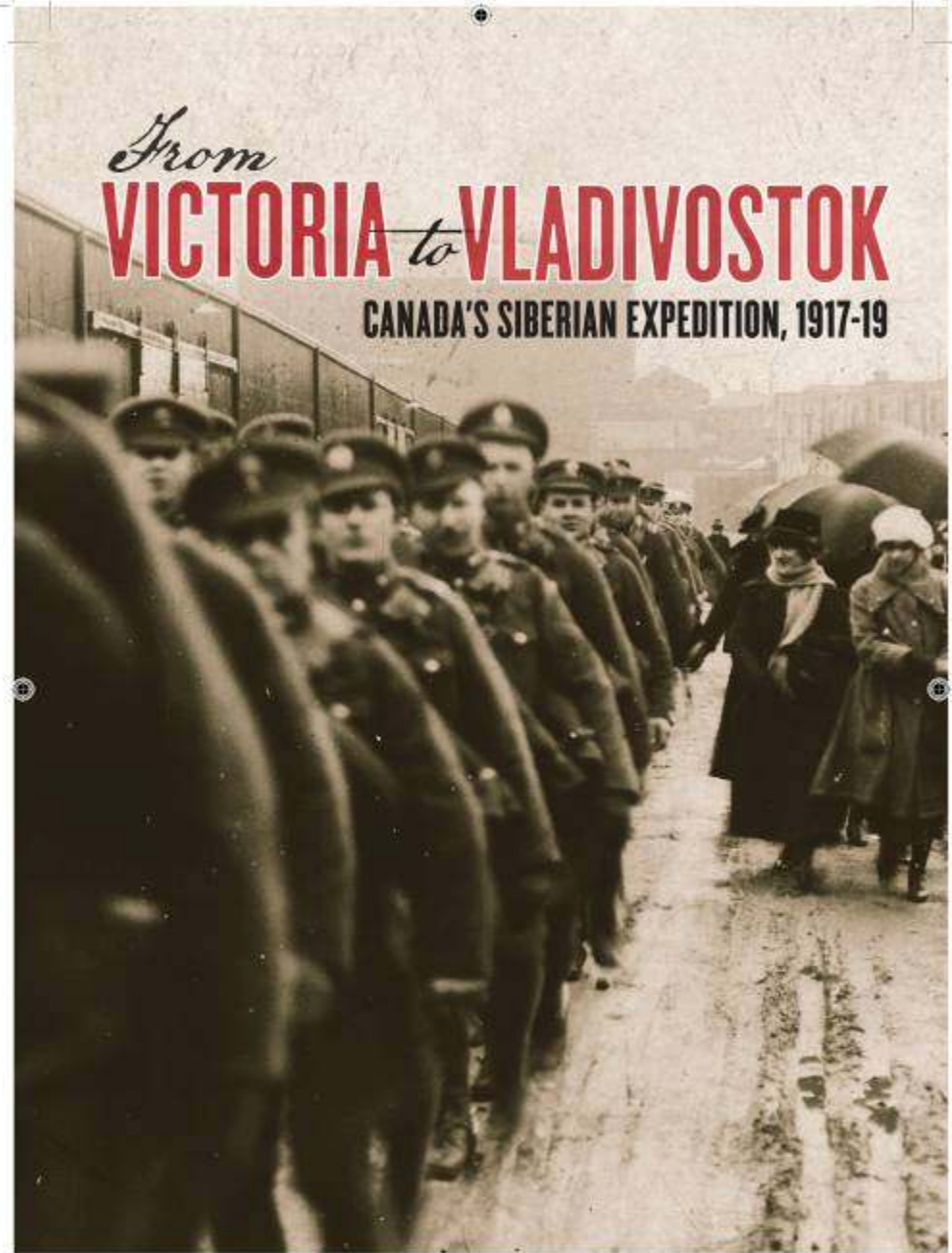


“So we grow up thinking there were no struggles to engage in, no obstacles to be overcome.

We suppose now that the new text books will tell children that the world was set free in 1914-1918 — with no hint that autocracy is not yet out of the saddle, no suggestion that there are other fields to be won.”

“History Teaching All Wrong”
Semi-Weekly Tribune (Victoria)
22 September 1919

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— BENJAMIN ISITT —