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Above

James Findlay was the first Vancouver mayor to wear the new gold civic chain of office at the official opening of the courthouse by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught on 12 September 1912. The ornate chain was designed by Henry Birks Jewellers. Wrought in 14-karat gold, the chain is of handsome design and splendid workmanship. It is composed of five shields that are each carved with designs depicting the five principal industries of the province: Forestry, Shipping, Manufacturing, Mining and Tourism.

Right

Mayor James Findlay welcomed the Duke and Duchess of Connaught to a civic reception at the newly-completed Vancouver Court House on 18 September 1912. The arrival of the "horseless carriage," the automobile, greatly altered the character of the royal tour. Only two teams of horses appear in this photo. The licence plate numbers on some of the cars can be clearly seen in pioneer Vancouver photographer Stuart Thomson's image, and from them one can determine that William J. Edgett of 1350 West 10th Avenue came in his Wonin automobile, and John C. Dill of 2466 West 6th Avenue came in his Hudson. Vancouver's military as well as local boy scouts turned out "in spit and polish" to welcome "The Duke," Queen Victoria's third son, who was at the time Canada's Governor General. The enthusiasm of the crowd can be measured by the 92 Union Jacks that can be counted in this picture.





Vancouver's first permanent courthouse after the addition, opened in 1890 and fronted on Cambie and Hastings Streets. The courthouse was torn down in 1911, and the location became Victory Square after the Great War. The square incorporates the steps of the original courthouse.

Vancouver's Courthouses

THOMAS SORBY, who also designed the the first Hotel Vancouver, was the architect of the first courthouse built by Turnbull and Company of New Westminster at a cost of \$18,000. The upper floor consisted of a single courtroom, the judge's office and a law library, while the bottom floor housed the county registrar, the timber inspector, an assessor and a janitor.

Themis, the Greek Goddess of Justice, by sculptor Jack Harman, stands on the 4th floor of Vancouver's Law Courts. The city's third courthouse was designed by world-renowned Vancouver architect Arthur Erickson in 1973.

During the construction phase, assessor A. E. Beck questioned its size, and by completion date the new courthouse proved to be too small and had to be enlarged by more than three times its original size. N. E. Hoffar designed the new addition, which was built by J. M. Luckie and Edward Cook at a cost of \$47,000. The top of the addition was crowned with a raised cupola, on top of which stood a statue of Justice. Even with the new addition, Vancouver's first permanent courthouse had a short life span. In 1905 architect Francis M. Rattenbury won the contract to build the second courthouse.

A civic reception by Vancouver Mayor James Findlay at the new courthouse welcoming the Duke and Duchess of Connaught on 12 September 1912 proved to be a highlight in the city's pre-war era. As soon as the second courthouse opened for trials, the original building went under the wrecking ball and was torn down. At the end of the Great War the site became Victory Square, and a cenotaph was erected to commemorate the soldiers who had died in France and Belgium. By design or by coincidence, the site was directly across Hastings Street and opposite the Dominion Building. According to folklore, this beautiful historic structure, at one time the tallest building in the British Empire, was built with the Kaiser's money.

- 1 Hastings Mill
- 2 Flack Building
- 3 Inns of Court Building
- 4 First Courthouse
- 5 The Province Office
- 6 Victoria House Boarding School
- 7 Central School
- 8 City Hospital & Grounds

VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL. Looking northeast towards the intersection of Pender and Hamilton Streets clearly shows the original courthouse with the larger addition that was crowned with the cupola with the Statue of Justice, circa 1910.





The Beatty Street Drill Hall

The 6th Regiment, of the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, parade for their annual inspection in 1909. The parade was held on the Cambie Street Grounds immediately west of the Beatty Street Drill Hall in downtown Vancouver. The view is east across Cambie Street.

From the Plaque at Beatty Street Drill Hall

VANCOUVER'S FIRST SOLDIERS occupied the former Imperial Opera House located near the corner of Beatty and Pender Streets to train and use as their headquarters. As the regiment numbers increased, they soon outgrew the old wooden building. After much resistance the Federal Government finally approved the purchase of land and the construction of Vancouver's first drill hall. Construction started late in 1899 and was completed in 1901. Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Owen Townley was the Vancouver Battalion's first commanding officer in 1896 and was also registrar of land titles in Vancouver. His influence had much to do with the approval of the drill hall construction and its prominent location. Townley became Vancouver's eighth mayor in 1901.

The drill hall was designed by David Ewart and was opened on 30 September 1901 by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later King George V and Queen Elizabeth). The building has two prominent castle-like turrets complete with battlements; World War II era tanks and two original 64-pounder guns used by the

regiment now adorn the exterior. The Beatty Street Drill Hall has long been a Vancouver landmark and is listed as a class-A heritage building. The walls are three and a half feet thick; the building rests on huge granite blocks. Limestone from Gabriola Island was used for the parapet, and it features a rusticated stone trim. The drill hall includes a large parade square, offices, a museum and classrooms. It formerly contained a firing range and bowling alley. Originally the Cambie Street Grounds, now a parking lot, across the street was also used as part of the regiment's training facilities.

Boer War veterans march north down Granville Street on 30 September 1901. The soldiers are in Vancouver for the official opening by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later King George V and Queen Elizabeth) of the Beatty Street Drill Hall and for the presentation of medals for their South African service to the British Empire. Their tents have been set up in CPR Park, part of the second Hotel Vancouver complex. The view is taken to the northeast from one of the balconies near the top of the hotel.

Route to be taken by the Royal party

ON ARRIVAL

From CPR depot to corner Granville and Hastings

Hastings to Main

Along Main to Pender

Along Granville to Georgia to Courthouse

AFTER CEREMONY AT COURTHOUSE

Proceeds to Aberdeen School from Court House, along Howe via Georgia; and Howe to Smithe, and along Smithe to Burrard

DRIVE AROUND PARK

Aberdeen School, Burrard to Nelson, Nelson to Bidwell, Bidwell to Beach Avenue to park, leaving by Georgia Street entrance and thence via Georgia back to hotel.

VICTORIA COLONIST, 30 SEPTEMBER 1901



The Duke of Connaught's Visit

The Ghost Soldier of the Beatty Street Drill Hall

by Diana Morency

Administrative Assistant,
Beatty Street Drill Hall

When I first began working at the British Columbia Regiment, I had a sense of being watched or observed. Not knowing the history of the place, I had wandered around the building, taking in my surroundings. One day I looked up towards the inside windows and saw a movement near the exit sign. It was as if a hand moved across the sign blurring it. Another time I was sent down to the Quarter Master section and by mistake took a wrong turn and ended up in the Junior Ranks area. I felt a strong sense that someone was watching me, and that sent shivers throughout my entire body. I know that he is not an evil presence, and I suspect he just wants to make sure that I was okay being in the regiment that he values so much. Later I was told about his ashes and did my own research on him and came to discover that one of his requests was that he be buried at sea. I feel his wishes should be honoured, so his restless spirit can be at ease, and if he chooses to visit then he can do so with a sense of peace.

From The Vancouver Sun, 18 September 1912

WITH A GUARD OF HONOUR of the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles standing at the salute and with the regimental band playing the National Anthem, the royal train rolled in at the Canadian Pacific depot at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and His Royal Highness and the Duchess and the Princess Patricia and the members of the vice-regal suite, were accorded a hearty welcome to the Terminal City by Mayor Findlay and the civic reception committee and representative of the Dominion and provincial governments and military forces.

Although work on several of the arches was being actively proceeded with late this morning, the nail had been driven; the last piece of bunting adjusted and everything was in readiness for the people of Vancouver to greet their royal highnesses when the train arrived. For two hours the citizens in tens of thousands had been thronging the streets, admiring the splendid decorations and taking up their places along the line of route.

From early morn Vancouver has been on the tiptoe of expectation over the vice-regal visit. Like all hospitable hosts—anxious that nothing should be left undone—the city has been actively engaged in preparations for the guests and work on the decorations was being rushed to the very moment of their arrival.

There is no desire to make comparisons—for everyone knows that all along the “royal progress” every town has done splendidly—but Vancouver as decked today without a doubt compares favourably with any other city in Canada, as regards decorations.

Taking their places in the carriages waiting near the platform, the royal guests escorted by the detachment of the British Columbia Mounted Horse under the command of Colonel Flick, proceeded on their tour of the city. The winding roadway from the railway station to the corner of Granville and Cordova Streets, was one densely packed mass of surging humanity, each wait of which was eager to catch the first glimpse of the vice-regal visitors. The police cordons were well preserved, though the mounted and foot constables had a busy time keeping clear the path. The crowds were thickest near the corner of Granville and Hastings Streets. Here nearly ten thousand people had gathered to view the royal procession.

Their royal highnesses were greeted with hearty cheers that almost re-echoed across the inlet and were in one long-continued surge of sound

along the liner of route as the party passed on the way.

The thousands of flags waved bravely in the breeze, the air seemed vibrant with tense enthusiasm, and the brightly decorated arches and buildings and resplendent uniforms of the militia regiments blended in one kaleidoscopic mass of colour, contrasting effectively with the sombre garb of the civilians in the orthodox frock coat and silk hat, who occupied the carriages.

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The Duke of Connaught's Men

by Colonel (retired) Keith D. Maxwell, OMM, CD

ON 18 SEPTEMBER 1912 the 62-year-old Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught, third son of Queen Victoria, visited Vancouver and met with military officers and personnel at the Beatty Street Drill hall for a photograph opportunity. The Duke was Canada's 10th Governor General and served from 1911 until 1916.

Some of the officers in the portrait went on to serve heroically in the First World War and some made the ultimate sacrifice:

Captain H. C. Buller joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry at the outbreak of the First World War and was killed in action commanding that Regiment at Sanctuary Wood on 2 June 1916. He is buried in the PPCLI's first Regimental burial ground just south of Ypres, Belgium, along with approximately 100 other original members of the Regiment.

Major William Frederick Hart-McHarg served in the South Africa War and later commanded the 7th (1st British Columbia) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which is perpetuated by Vancouver's British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own). He was killed in action commanding his battalion during the Second Battle of Ypres, near Saint Julien, Belgium, on 24 April 1915.

Lieutenant William S. Latta commanded the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion from May 1917 until August 1918, when he was seriously wounded in action at Amiens, France. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) three times. There were only sixteen officers in Canada so honoured. His son, Pilot Officer John Blandford Latta, was an ace fighter pilot during the Battle of Britain, who was credited with six kills. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Pilot Officer Latta was killed in action on 12 January 1941.

Major T. V. Scudamore served with the first contingent as a company commander in the 7th (1st British Columbia) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was taken prisoner during the Second Battle of Ypres near Saint Julien, Belgium, on 24 April 1915. He later wrote the history of the 7th (1st BC) Battalion in the First World War. His son, Lieutenant John Scudamore, was killed in action while serving as an officer of the British Columbia Regiment in Belgium in October 1944.



6th Regiment, The Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles allied with the Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own).

Back row: Lieutenant J. D. Inkster; Lieutenant J. S. Matthews, Vancouver City Archivist 1933–1970; Lieutenant W. J. McManus; Lieutenant T. V. Scudamore; Lieutenant J. M. McMillan; Lieutenant W. S. Latta; Lieutenant J. Moscrop; Lieutenant C. E. King; Lieutenant H. B. Scharschmidt

Middle row: Captain R. H. McGill; Captain P. M. Ferris; Captain R. G. Maxwell; Captain A. Graham; Captain A. Rowan; Lieutenant G. W. Melhuish; Captain C. Milne; Lieutenant A. Turner; Lieutenant W. B. Hunter

Front row: Captain H. C. Buller, Aide-de-camp, The Rifle Brigade; Major H. D. Hulme; Lieutenant Colonel J. Duff Stuart; Field Marshall His Royal Highness The Duke of Connaught, Honorary Colonel; A. D. McRae, Esquire, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel; Major W. Hart-McHarg; Captain Reverend C. C. Owen

Training for the Trenches

by Sergeant Dwayne H. Snow, CD

SEVENTEEN INFANTRY BATTALIONS were raised in British Columbia to serve overseas in the Great War, of which seven are perpetuated by the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), the province's senior regiment. More than 15,000 volunteers passed through the ranks of these seven units. Many of the initial volunteers were drawn from the serving members of the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles and other local regiments, while most of the later recruits were civilians with no military experience. In each battalion a small number of veteran officers and non-commissioned officers provided a cadre around which the new recruits were formed. Three of the regiment's battalions became part of the order of battle of the Canadian Corps while the remainder were broken up as reinforcements. Those forming part of the Canadian Corps included the 7th, 29th and 102nd Battalions.

The 7th Battalion was raised at Camp Valcartier, Quebec, in September 1914 with an initial strength of 1223 officers and men. Lieutenant-Colonel Hart-McHarg was its first commanding officer. More than 6,000 men served in the 7th Battalion, which suffered 1529 killed and 3669 wounded during their 45 months on the Western Front. The 7th Battalion returned to Vancouver on 25 April 1919 with only 12 of its original members. Soldiers of the Battalion earned more than 270 awards for gallantry, including three Victoria Crosses, the highest award for valour in the Empire. Captain Edward Bellew and Private Michael J. O'Rourke and Private Walter Rayfield earned the three VCs.

The 29th (Vancouver) Battalion, known as "Tobin's Tigers," was raised in Vancouver in March 1915 and had an initial strength of 1227 officers and men. Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Tobin, a veteran of the RCMP and the South African War, was its first commanding officer. Arriving at the front in the fall of 1915, it served with distinction in the trenches of the Kemmel Sector in late 1915 until the final 100

6th Field Company Construction Engineers, Camp 2, bivouacked at Grandview Park (Commercial Drive and Charles Streets) on 2 April 1918 in preparation for deployment overseas to France and Belgium.





Victoria Cross recipients Private Michael James O'Rourke of the 7th (1st British Columbia) Battalion and Company Sergeant Major Robert Hill Hanna of the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion stand united in front of Buckingham Palace after the Victoria Cross awards ceremony conducted by King George V. Both soldiers won their VCs at the Battle of Hill 70 in August 1917. Note that CSM Hanna is wearing the white hat band of an officer cadet as he had been selected for officer training shortly after the battle.

days campaign that ended the war. Of the 4524 soldiers who served in its ranks during the war 606 were killed and 1715 were wounded. The soldiers of the 29th earned more than 355 decorations for gallantry and Sergeant-Major Robert Hanna was awarded a VC.

The 102nd (North British Columbia) Battalion, raised at Comox in December 1915, had an initial strength of 1005 officers and men. Lieutenant-Colonel John Weightman Warden was its first commanding officer and the Battalion became known as "Warden's Warriors." Warden had

served in the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles (DCOR) and enlisted in the 7th Battalion. The 102nd Battalion arrived in France on 12 August 1916 and received its "baptism of fire" at the Somme. Of the 3863 officers and men who served in the battalion 676 were killed and 1715 wounded. The soldiers of the battalion earned 287 decorations for gallantry. Lieutenant Graham Lyall was awarded a VC.

With the defeat of the German Empire, two of the regiment's battalions, the 7th and 29th, formed part of the occupation force on the Rhine River and returned to base

The Victoria Cross

There were only 70 Victoria Crosses awarded to Canadians during the First World War, and a further sixteen in the Second World War. The decoration is a simple bronze Maltese Cross with the words "For Valour" inscribed on it with the recipient's rank, name and serial number on the reverse of the bar. It is worn on the right of other service medals. Queen Victoria introduced the medal in 1856 to reward acts of bravery during the Crimean War. According to folklore, the gun-metal from which the medals came were struck from Russian cannons captured during the siege of Sevastopol. Victoria Crosses can now sell for up to a million dollars.

Robert Hill Hanna joined C Company of the 29th Battalion, known as Tobin's Tigers, as a private. He received his VC in 1917 after all his company officers were killed. He reorganized the remaining men to attack and capture a German trench and defend the position against counterattack in August 1917 on Hill 70 near Lens, France.

Hastings Park

From the Bessborough Armoury Museum's notes:

The 1920s were a time of improvisation and achievement for the brigade. The first summer camp was held in Hastings Park (present day PNE fairgrounds) in 1921. The government was unwilling to fund a permanent establishment of horses to pull the guns, so the artillerymen rescued some old horses on their way to the slaughterhouse. Fed, encouraged and groomed by the soldiers, the horses pulled the guns to Hastings Park, where, in between rides on the roller-coaster, the artillerymen trained in a manner described as "cheerful and willing, rather than well-informed".



The 29th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces stand at attention in 1914 at the parade square at Hastings Park with the roller-coaster ride in the background.

