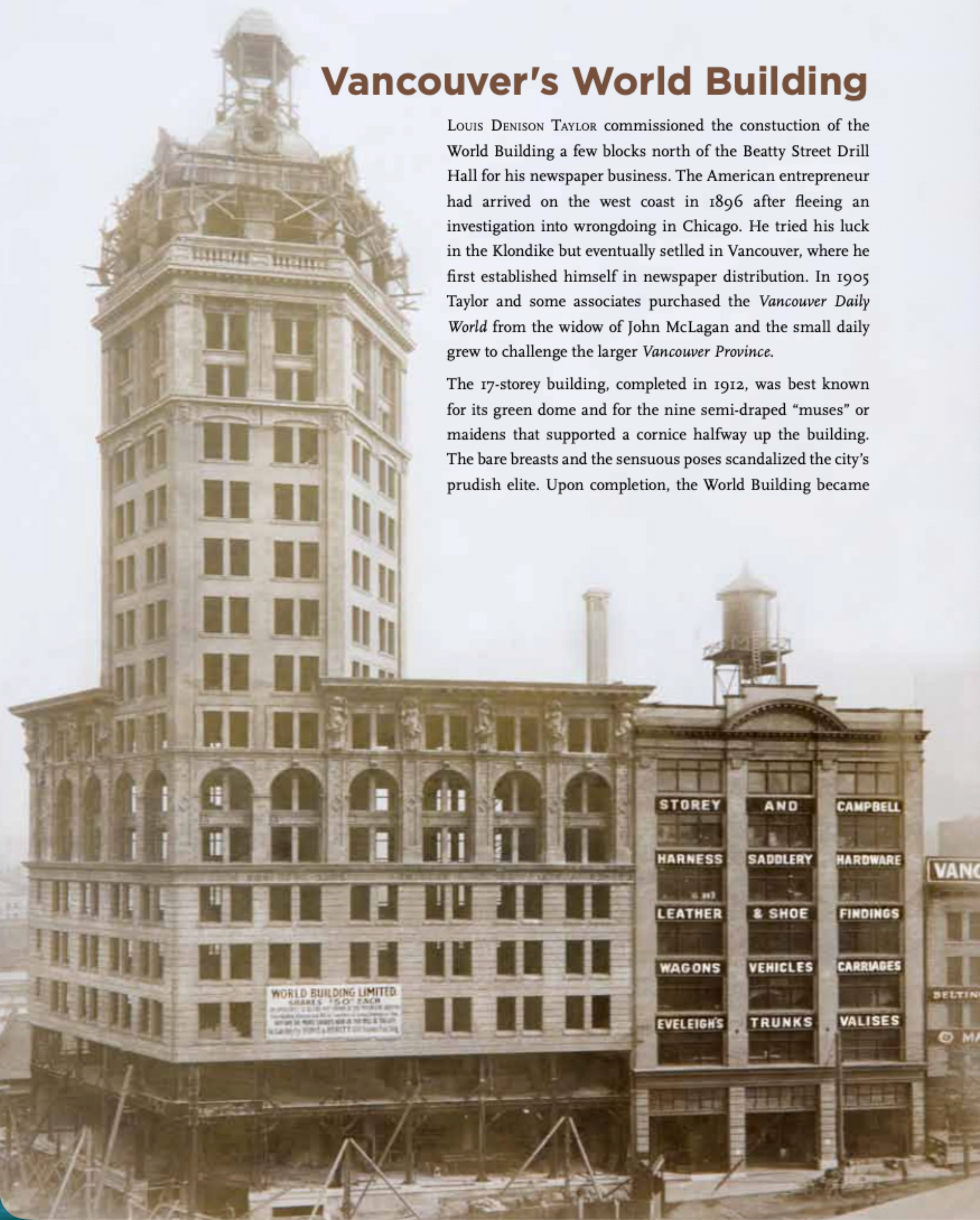


# Vancouver's World Building

LOUIS DENISON TAYLOR commissioned the construction of the World Building a few blocks north of the Beatty Street Drill Hall for his newspaper business. The American entrepreneur had arrived on the west coast in 1896 after fleeing an investigation into wrongdoing in Chicago. He tried his luck in the Klondike but eventually settled in Vancouver, where he first established himself in newspaper distribution. In 1905 Taylor and some associates purchased the *Vancouver Daily World* from the widow of John McLagan and the small daily grew to challenge the larger *Vancouver Province*.

The 17-storey building, completed in 1912, was best known for its green dome and for the nine semi-draped "muses" or maidens that supported a cornice halfway up the building. The bare breasts and the sensuous poses scandalized the city's prudish elite. Upon completion, the World Building became





the tallest building in the British Empire. A previous record holder had been the Dominion Building located a few blocks away.

The newspaper man's editorials paved the way for his entry into politics, and he was elected Mayor of Vancouver 1910–11, 1915, 1925–28 and from 1931 to 1934. Taylor fought for women's rights, an eight-hour working day and Vancouver's first airport.

In 1924 Taylor got into financial difficulties and sold the building to Bekins, a Seattle moving company, and their huge neon sign went up on the roof of Vancouver's tallest building. The *Vancouver Sun* newspaper purchased the building in 1937, and it was renamed the Sun Tower.

Taylor had a "live and let live attitude" that, when he became older, didn't sit well with many of the self-righteous anti-everything factions in the city. This caused him to lose his last attempt at retaining the mayor's spot to lawyer Gerald Grattan McGeer. The lawyer-politician accused "LD" at age 77 of being both outdated and corrupt.

Taylor contested subsequent elections but without any success. A few days after the eighty-year old politician lost his last election, a group of well-wishers led by prominent lawyer Angelo Branca, later a BC Supreme Court judge, created a trust account in Taylor's name. The "pension" lasted the rest of L.D.'s life.

#### Above

A 1923 photograph from the World Building looking west although labelled north.

- 1 Vancouver Block
- 2 Second Hotel Vancouver
- 3 Hudson's Bay Company
- 4 Holy Rosary Cathedral
- 5 Vancouver Central School

#### Opposite

Commissioned by Taylor, the owner of the *Vancouver World* newspaper and later the longest serving Mayor of Vancouver, the Sun Tower was the tallest building in the British Empire when completed in 1912. Originally called the World Building, it surpassed the Dominion Building in height.



## The Beatty Street Drill Hall

The 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Empire Tour

*From The Vancouver Sun, 30 September 1901*

VANCOUVER TODAY gives the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York a western welcome. Having circumnavigated the globe and reached the Terminal City, the royal party may be said to have virtually concluded its remarkable programme. After the visit to Victoria tomorrow it will be on what may be called the "home run."

The Heir Apparent has now visited most of the colonies over which he will reign as George V. No other prince in the direct line, no matter what the empire, has ever made so vast a tour without leaving the borders of the lands over which the flag of his country is entitled to wave. One may go further and say that never before in the history of the world has a ruler, actual or potential, received the homage of a territory so great in its extent.

It must not be forgotten that His Royal Highness has not been to every part of the Empire. There are portions that will have to be left unvisited such as Hong Kong in the Far East and huge portions of the continent of Africa.

The trip that has been made from the Atlantic, the water route of the nineteenth century to the Pacific, the ocean of the twentieth century was an impossibility a few decades back. Today it is a far easier and much pleasanter journey than the ride from London to Bath was in the days of the last George.

When it is remembered that 16 years ago there was no such place as the City of Vancouver the people of the west may feel proud of the reception that is today accorded to the Duke and Duchess. The city is decorated in the colours of empire—red white and blue—and the Duke of Cornwall is given ample proof that this young city of the west is not among the least in proving that it delights to show its loyalty to the reigning family. Far removed though Vancouver is from the seat of the empire yet its citizens feel that they are as true sons of Britain as they among whom royalty dwells. The metropolis of the Canadian coast of one of the Seven Seas shouts with all its might, "God save the Duke and Duchess of York."



Above

The British Columbia Regiment, Canadian Artillery, wore the Wolseley helmet in the 1890s.

Opposite

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Owen Townley, circa 1898.

He was the Commanding Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, British Columbia Regiment, Canadian Artillery, with Wolseley helmet and swagger stick. Lieutenant-Colonel Townley served on the Vancouver City council in the late 1890s and served as Vancouver's 8<sup>th</sup> mayor in 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 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.

The gala attire of the streets and buildings and the harbour shipping, the general air of festivity and civic wellbeing, the magnificent buildings handsomely decorated, all combine to present to the distinguished visitors of this afternoon a scene of progress and prosperity probably unsurpassed on the continent.

The decorations are of the amplest and most attractive description. Myriad flags flutter from every vantage point. Work on the decorations has proceeded day and night without intermission for the last week, and it has been a race against time to complete them. Workmen have labored under extreme difficulties, and have accomplished much under the most trying conditions. It's a question whether the Italian arch on Hastings Street will be completed on time.

## Arches Are Feature

An arch erected by the Progress Club on Granville Street from a design by Mr. George Henry Little, a reproduction of Holbein's architectural masterpiece at the gateway at St. James' Palace, London, is among the most striking of the decorative effects. This arch represents the architecture of the Tudor period. It is finished off with a fine coating of stone on paint, with mullioned windows of the old-fashioned bulls' eyeglass, expressly made in small sheets.



Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught and Strathern, was the third and favourite son of Queen Victoria. He rose to the rank of Field Marshall in his own right as a professional soldier in the British Army. He also served as the Masonic Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England from 1901 until 1939. The Duke of Connaught served as the Colonel of the Regiment and then Colonel-in-Chief of the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles (now the British Columbia Regiment's Duke of Connaught's Own) from 1900 until 1942. He was Governor General of Canada from 1911 until 1916. The Duke of Connaught Lodge No. 64 in North Vancouver was named to commemorate his 1912 visit to Vancouver.



Vancouver City Mounted Police sit at attention in front of an arch that straddled Hamilton Street at Pender Street. The arch was built and donated by the BC Shingle Association to honor the visit by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

A huge Douglas fir, bark left on, was sawn into eight logs—each four feet in diameter and 20 feet long—that were stood on end and topped with a flag-bedecked pediment. According to folklore, there was not a nail in the whole of it.

William J. Edgett took this photograph on 20 September 1912 during the visit of the royals. The arch was later dismantled and relocated in Stanley Park at the Indian Village of Whoi-Whoi. By 1947 that arch had deteriorated and as a result was demolished.

From the turret will fly one of the few Royal Standards in the city. The Royal Coat of Arms and that of the Duke of Connaught are emblazoned, as also the emblem of the Progress Club. The whole will be lit up tonight by a scheme of illumination from within. To the energy of Mr. J. T. Stephens, the erection of the Progress Club's arch is largely due. Vines are being trained on the structure and the whole will form a very complete reproduction.

### Italian Arch

Another handsome arch is the one erected by the Italians, designed to represent the arch of the Constantine at Rome. This arch is of Roman Corinthian order and is the tallest in the city, 64 feet high. Over the top is inscribed in English and Italian, "Italian Colony, in Honor to His Royal Highness." The arch is solid wood construction, in columns plastered to imitate marble. The plaster caps of the columns were engraved by a local sculpture and are an exact reproduction of the Corinthian caps at Cori, Italy, the only one of the kind known. The Canadian Northern arch adjoining is after

the French style. Perry and Nicholas are the designers of the Italian arch. Other arches are the Japanese arch after the design of those generally erected at the entrance to the temples of Buddha, and the Chinese arch, on Carrall Street, that is a reproduction of the arches generally constructed in China for similar occasions. The Germans have erected on Granville Street an old German design of a city gate, the outline of which is illuminated. A smaller ancient city gate, from a design by Mr. Ormaton, is erected at the corner of Granville and Hastings Streets. Another handsome erection is the Lumbermens' Association arch at Pender and Hamilton Streets. Massive unhewn logs of Douglas fir form the bases. This arch is to be, it is understood, rebuilt in Stanley Park. The gaily dressed harbor ships fly the British emblem from every masthead.

A view east of the Italian arch across Hastings Street at Homer Street with the Dominion Building blocked by the left hand corner of the arch with the Great Northern Railway arch in the background.



# 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> (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 7<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> 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.



6<sup>th</sup> 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

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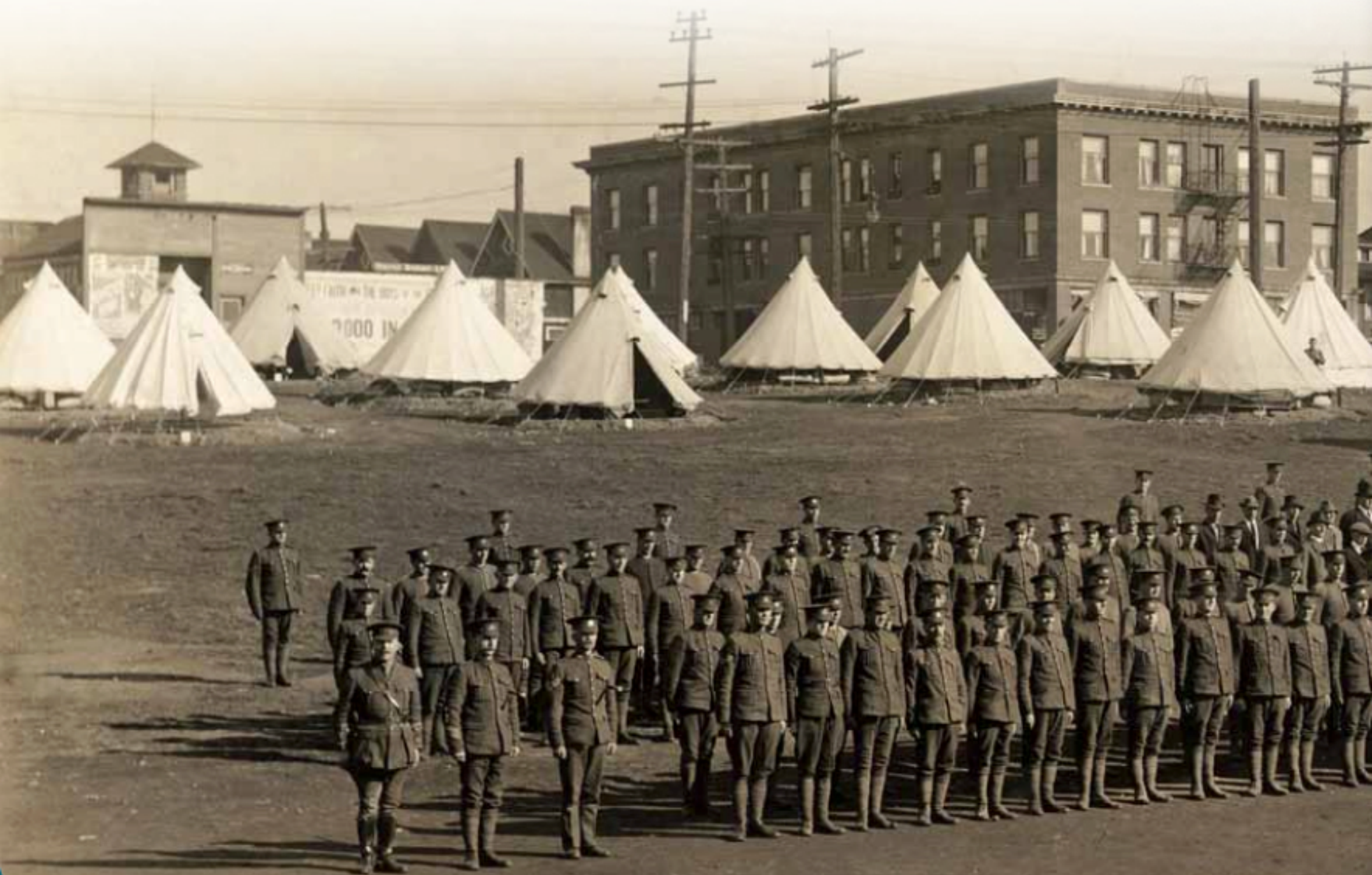
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# Training for the Trenches

*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 7<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 102<sup>nd</sup> Battalions.



The 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which suffered 1529 killed and 3669 wounded during their 45 months on the Western Front. The 7<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> (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

6<sup>th</sup> 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.



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Victoria Cross recipients Private Michael James O'Rourke of the 7<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> British Columbia) Battalion and Company Sergeant Major Robert Hill Hanna of the 29<sup>th</sup> (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 29<sup>th</sup> earned more than 355 decorations for gallantry and Sergeant-Major Robert Hanna was awarded a VC.

The 102<sup>nd</sup> (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 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion. The 102<sup>nd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

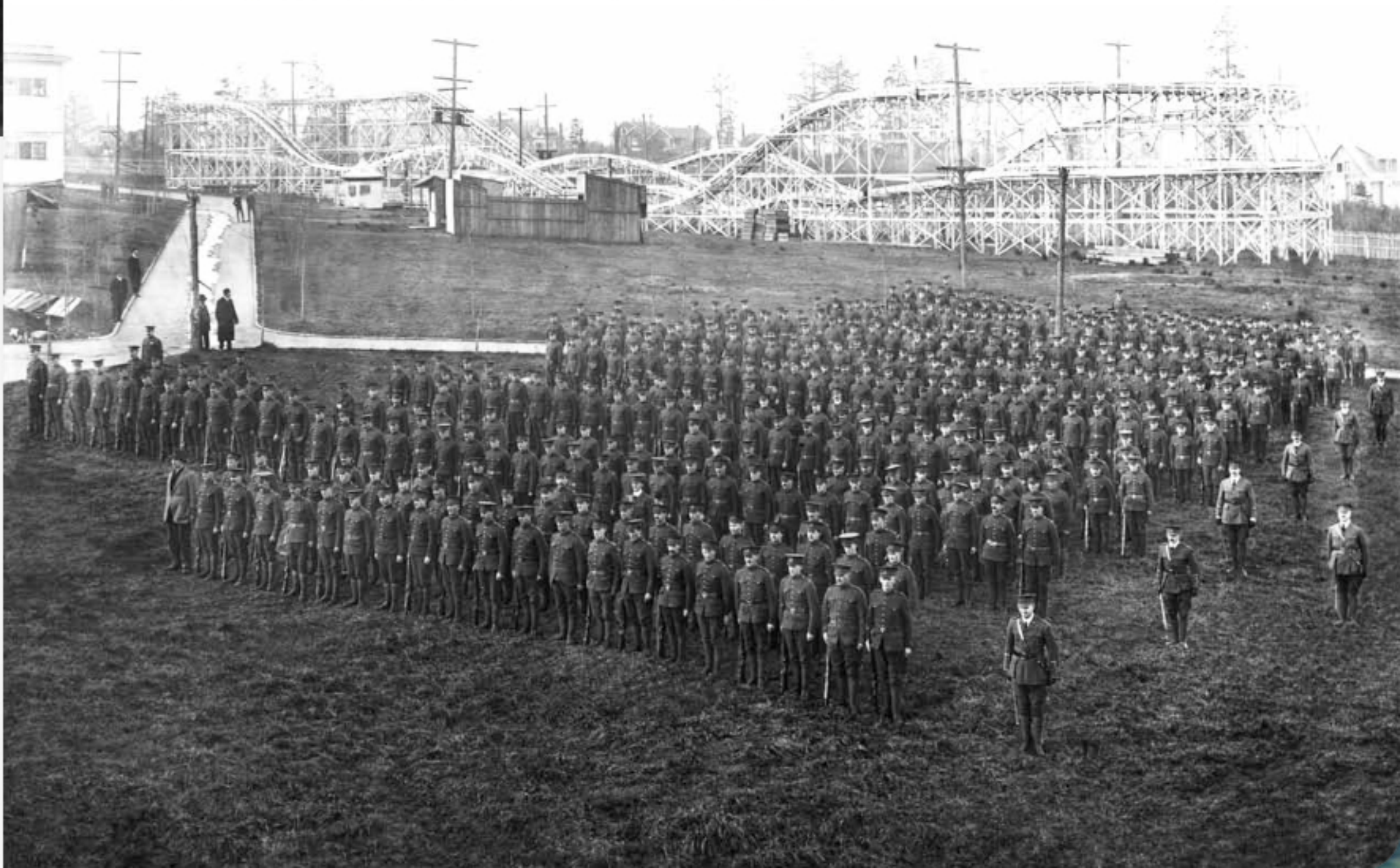
## Hastings Park

*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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.





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## 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

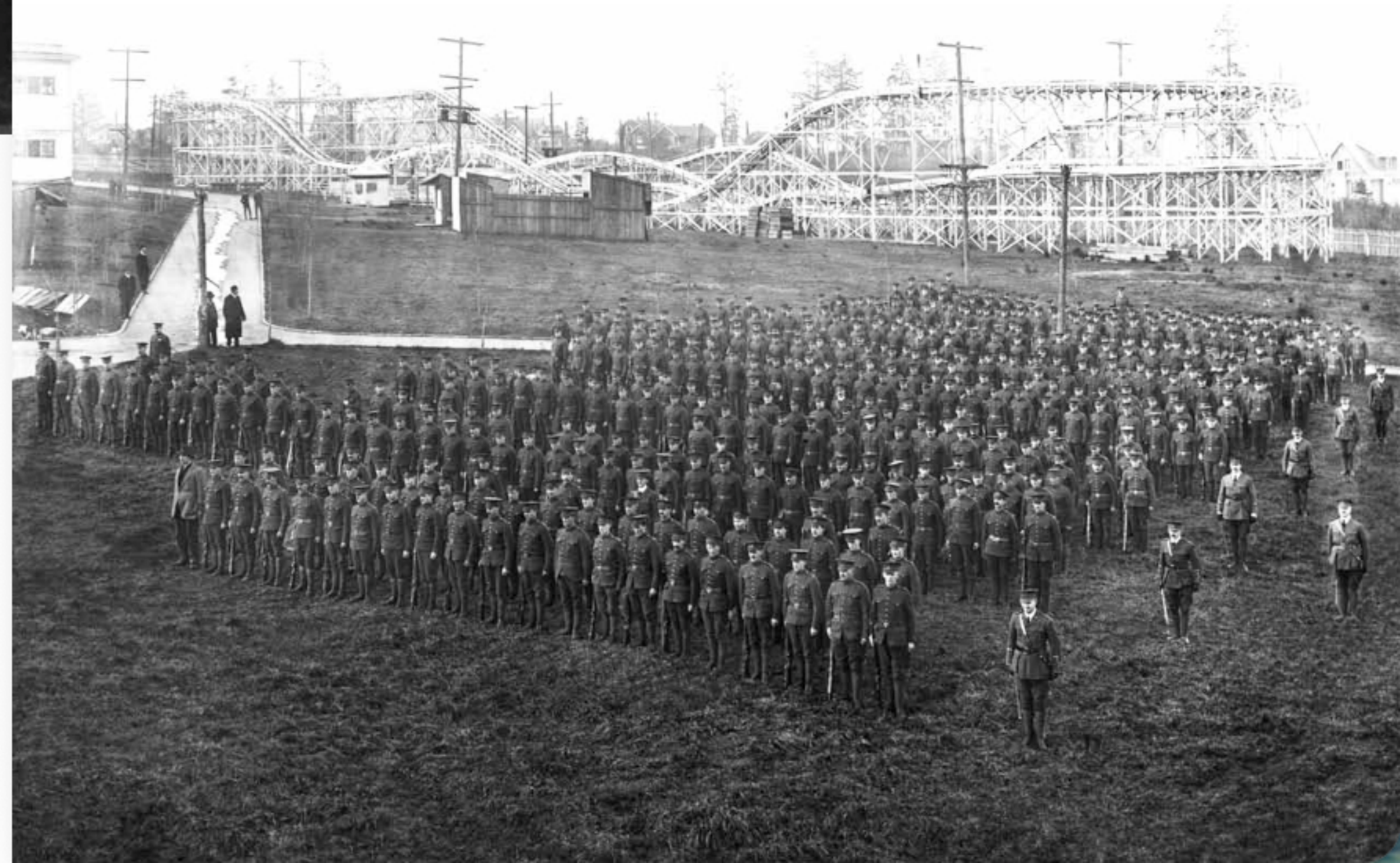
## Hastings Park

*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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.



16754 125. Bryant



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

7th Canadian

1918.

The Queen joins me in welcoming you on your release from the miseries & hardships, which you have endured with so much patience & courage.

During these many months of trial, the early rescue of our gallant Officers & Men from the cruelties of their captivity has been uppermost in our thoughts.

We are thankful that this longed for day has arrived, & that back in the old Country you will be able once more to enjoy the happiness of a home & to see good days among those who anxiously look for your return.

George R. I.

#### Left

This letter, which appears to be in the handwriting of King George V, is actually a printed form letter sent to many of the prisoners of war released shortly after 11 November 1918 in accordance with the terms of the Armistice.

This letter was sent to 16754 Private H.H. Bryant of 3 Company, 7<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> British Columbia) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was taken prisoner on 24 April 1915 during the Second Battle of Ypres near Saint Julien, Belgium. Germany gave notice of his capture on 15 May 1915, and he was kept at a prisoner of war camp near Munster, Germany until his release.

#### Right

This official portrait of King George V hangs proudly on display at the Bessborough Armoury.

camps in early 1919. The battalions returned home in the ensuing months and were demobilized and dismissed with appropriate ceremony and fanfare.

The greatest problem that faced the army after the war was reorganizing and perpetuating 260 reinforcing and 59 fighting battalions of the Canadian Expedition Forces within the "Old Militia" regiments that remained behind in Canada. In British Columbia, National Defence Headquarters decided to create the 1<sup>st</sup> British Columbia Regiment with six battalions. The DCOR and the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion joined to form the First Battalion (7<sup>th</sup> Battalion CEF) 1<sup>st</sup> BC Regiment (DCO). The 29<sup>th</sup> (Vancouver) Battalion formed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> British Columbia Regiment, and the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion and the Westminster Regiment formed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> British Columbia Regiment.

The Beatty Street Drill Hall was a busy place, with the Vancouver Regiment parading Monday and Wednesdays, the Seaforth Highlanders on Tuesday and Thursdays, and the 1<sup>st</sup> BC Regiment parading on the other days.

In 1927 Lieutenant-Colonel William Wasborough Foster, CMG, DSO, VD, became the new commanding officer of the regiment.

In the 1920s Vancouver's militia regiments had undergone a series of amalgamations, brought on by cuts



in the defence budget. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was renamed the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was redesignated the Vancouver Regiment; the latter was amalgamated with the Irish Fusiliers in 1936. In 2002 the Irish Fusiliers were amalgamated with The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own).

Throughout the inter-war period the militia in Canada was badly equipped and underfunded—still wearing uniforms and using equipment left over from the First World War."

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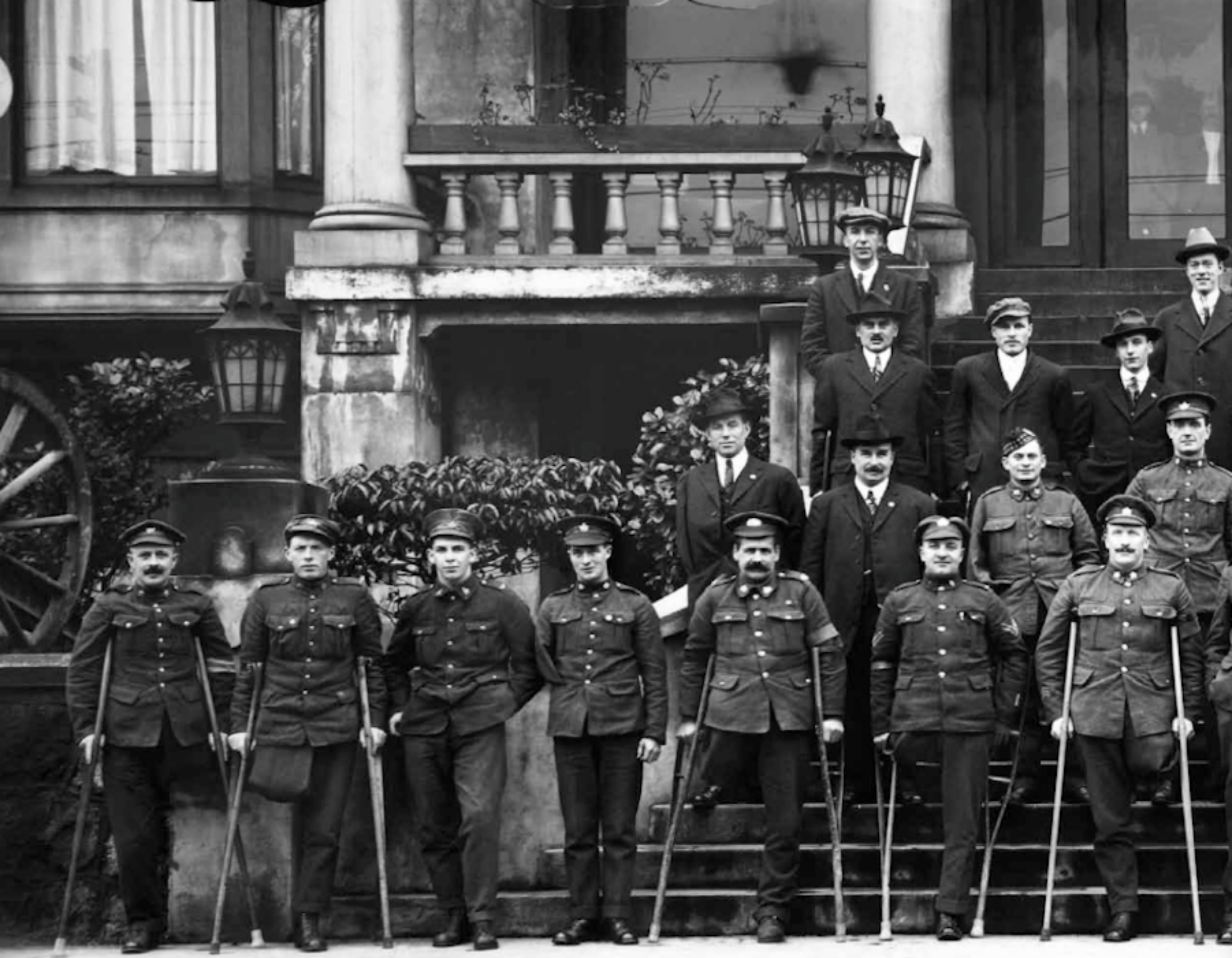
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## Vancouver's Amputation Club

The club was formed in the early fall of 1918 and included in its membership only men who had lost an arm, a leg, or who had suffered amputation as a result of wounds in the Great War. The headquarters of the organization was at the Returned Soldiers' Club at 1142 West Pender Street, midway between Thurlow and Bute Streets.

But while the wounds of the amputees were visible, many veterans coming back from the war suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder for the rest of their lives from flashbacks and nightmares resulting from

their times in the trenches. They went overseas young and healthy and came back broken and with changed personalities.

The 100-room Elysium Hotel, built by realtors Marriot & Fellows and opened in 1911, competed for business with the CRP's second and third Hotels Vancouver. After the Second World War, the hotel was turned into 46 family suites under the federal government's Home Conversion Plan. It was demolished in the 1970s.



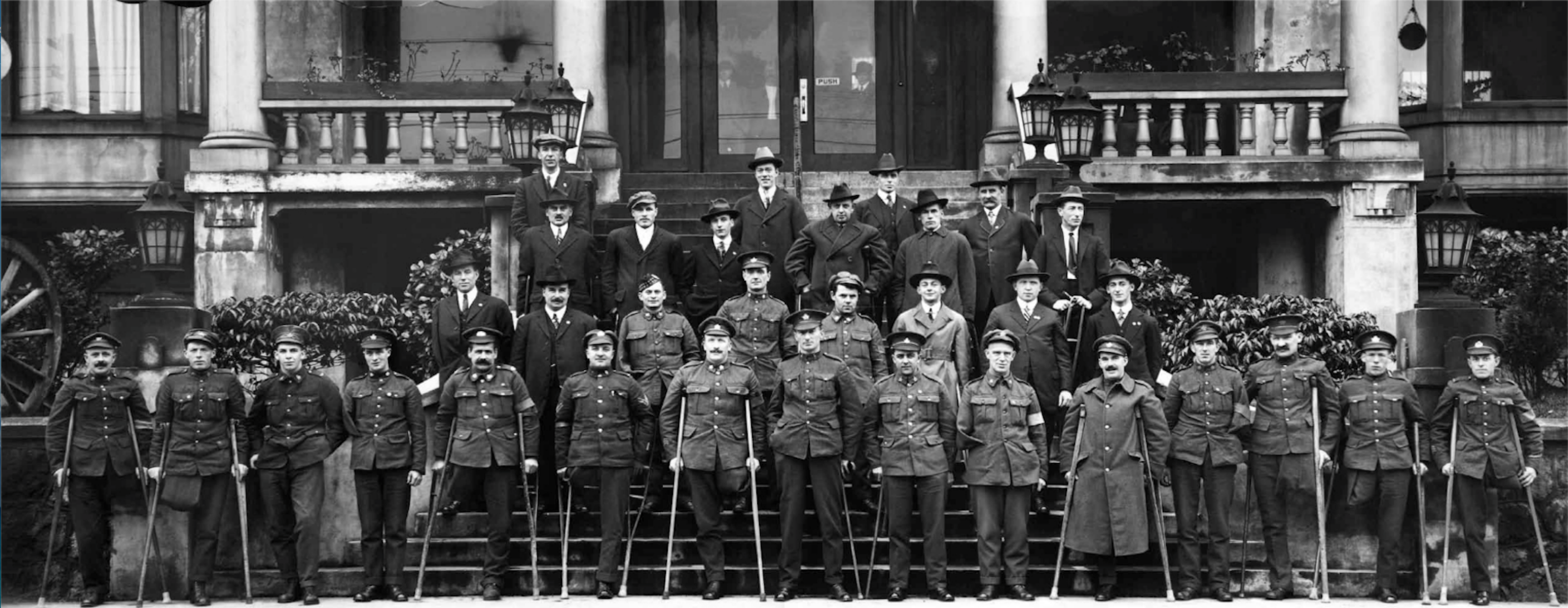
Some members of Vancouver's Amputation Club photographed in front of the Elysium Hotel , 3 November 1918.

Front row: A Stewart, F. Cowan, C. Wilson, M. McGougan, M. Wildman, A. Burnett, W. Armstrong, T. H. Potts, J. R. W. Jones, R. C. Sinclair, S. Ross, J. W. T. Currie, G. S. McArthur, F. McDonald, and F. C. Newcombe.

Second row: J. Logan, J. Alderson, R. C. Verrier, P. J. McCormack, C. McQueen, G. H. Morritt, T. L. Heads, W. Halstead.

Third row: H. Corner, E. R. Morton, C. Etchell, W. B. McConnell, President; D. McKenzie, R. W. Bashford.

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The unveiling of the "Angel of Victory" took place in Vancouver on 22 April 1922 before a solemn crowd of military and local dignitaries. A white-haired and goateed Mayor Charles E. Tisdall stands on the extreme left-hand side of the podium.

## Angel of Victory

A heritage monument, this bronze sculpture depicts an angel carrying a dead soldier and commemorates those brave men who lost their lives in the Great War of 1914 – 1918. This is one of three identical statues commissioned by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1921 to honour their workers who answered the call of "King and country" and made the ultimate sacrifice. Montreal sculptor Coeur de Lion McCarthy created the statue. Two other identical sculptures are in Winnipeg and Montreal. The angel at the CPR Waterfront Station originally held a full wreath in her upraised hand. After the Second World War, the dates of that war were also added to the plaque.



# The Worthington Brothers

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

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD G. WORTHINGTON and his brother, Major John R. Worthington, rest side by side in Bretteville-sur-Laize Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery near the village of Cintheaux in Normandy. Their graves are the first two on the right after entering the cemetery through the main entrance. The brothers were killed nine days apart during intense fighting south of Caen and in the Falaise Gap.

Don and Jack Worthington were the only two sons of Dr. and Mrs. George Worthington of Vancouver. Dr. Worthington was a physician and an alderman on the Vancouver City Council and a prominent citizen in the community. Don and Jack were born in 1913 and 1915 respectively, and both went to high school at the University School in Victoria. Both attended UBC, and both were pharmacists looking forward to a bright future in the family's pharmacy business.

Don Worthington was drawn to the military life at a young age, joining the BCR (DCOR) in 1934; he served as the Regiment's adjutant from 1936 to 1938. He then commanded a rifle company and a Vital Point Guard upon mobilization in 1939. When the BCR (DCOR) was not selected to form part of the first Canadian contingent proceeding overseas, Don was assigned as a General Staff Officer with Military District II Headquarters in Vancouver to help deal with the flurry of activities underway to mobilize the Canadian army.

Jack Worthington joined the Regiment at the outbreak of the Second World War, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in September 1939 on the strength of his Canadian Officer Training Corps training at school and university. He undertook training with the Regiment in Vancouver as the unit awaited assignment to the fighting order of battle.

In June 1940 the BCR (DCOR) were assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Division; Don returned to the Regiment in his former post as adjutant, and Jack continued his position as a platoon commander when the Regiment moved to Nanaimo for individual and sub-unit training. During Christmas leave in 1940, Jack married Lena Jane McBride from Orangeville, Ontario.



Lieutenant Colonel D. G. Worthington was killed by friendly fire during the Battle of Normandy on 9 August 1944. Mount Worthington, located at the western end of Kananaskis River Valley and the beautiful Three Isle Lake Valley in the Canadian Rockies, is named in his honour.

## Death on One Kitsilano Block

by Edna McGillvray

from a rock plaque at Cornwall Avenue and Trafalgar Street

I have lived in my home for eighty-seven years. This is how death affected one Kitsilano block, from 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue on Trafalgar Street.

We lost the following boys in World War II: Billy Vandervoort, Bobby Mathers, Gordon Mantle (our paper boy) and the two Worthington brothers, Don and Jack. Don was in command at Falaise in France, and his brother served under him. Their father was Dr. Worthington who owned the Cut Rate Drug Stores. He had a community centre for cards and teas built at 4<sup>th</sup> and Trafalgar in their memory. It is long gone now.

This Sherman tank, now a static display in front of the Drill Hall on Beatty Street, is similar to those used by the British Columbia Regiment (DCO) in the Northwest Europe campaign of 1944–1945. The Regiment fought in Sherman tanks from Normandy to Germany, and lost over 120 tanks to enemy fire. This Sherman has the same markings and name as the tank Lieutenant-Colonel Worthington took into battle on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1944.



Both brothers served with the Regiment throughout its training in Canada, first as an infantry battalion, then as an armoured regiment upon conversion of the unit to armour in early 1942. During their training period in the Niagara area, Don was promoted to Major and assigned command of a rifle company and, later, an armoured squadron. With less experience, Jack retained command at the platoon and troop level.

Don went overseas with the Regiment's advance party, while Jack remained with the main party. They trained extensively, both with the Regiment and at various schools and on a variety of courses. Shortly after his arrival in the United Kingdom, Don was assigned to the British Royal Armoured Corps School to attend the Tactical Course; the course report noted that Major Worthington would "make a first class Squadron Leader." This was neither the first nor last time that his exceptional abilities were noted.

In 1943 Don deployed to North Africa where he was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lothian and Borders Horse Yeomanry, an armoured regiment assigned to British First Army. He served as a Squadron Commander and Second-in-Command of the Regiment and saw extensive action in the offensive in Tunisia to clear the German Army from North Africa.

Don rejoined his Regiment and his brother in April 1943. His experience, noted leadership qualities and exceptional abilities were noticed in high places. He attended the Canadian Military Headquarters Senior Officers' School from May to July 1943 and was appointed as Second-in-Command of the Regiment while on course.

In June of that year, Jack was promoted to Captain and the following month was assigned as the Regimental Signals Officer, a position he retained until the following August.

On 27 August 1943 Major Don Worthington was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel to command the Regiment; he was responsible for preparing the Regiment for the Northwest Europe campaign. He was a dynamic, popular and demanding Commanding Officer who got the most out of his officers and men. He drove them hard and treated them with respect. As a part of the preparation for combat and in recognition of his abilities, Lieutenant Colonel Worthington was

earmarked to replace his Brigade Commander in the event that Brigadier Booth became a casualty.

Colonel Worthington led his Regiment, as part of Worthington Force, into combat on 9 August 1944 during Operation Totalize. The Regiment's first combat engagement in the war was devastating, with more than half of the soldiers in the fighting echelon lost as casualties, along with three quarters of the Regiment's tanks. Colonel Worthington led his troops from the front throughout the battle and provided an inspiring example through his bravery and leadership. He was mentioned in despatches in "recognition of his gallantry and distinguished service" that day. He died from a shrapnel wound late that afternoon.

Jack Worthington was promoted the day after his brother was killed and assigned command of a squadron, where his first task was to help lead the reconstruction of the Regiment after its heavy losses. On 14 August 1944, Major Worthington led his squadron in Operation Tractable and follow-on offensive operations. In the next four days the Regiment advanced fifteen kilometres to the southeast of Falaise to cut off the retreating Germans. In the confusion of that advance, Jack's tank was mistaken for a German vehicle and strafed by a Royal Air Force Typhoon attack fighter. He was mortally wounded by the friendly fire and died minutes after being turned over to a Polish medical evacuation unit.

In 1946 Jane and Dr. Worthington wrote letters to Canadian Army Headquarters asking that the brothers be interred together. Their request was granted. The story of Don and Jack Worthington is one of inspiration and tragedy; they provided remarkable leadership to the British Columbia Regiment at war. May they Rest in Peace. Dr. and Mrs. Worthington are buried in the Masonic cemetery on North Road in Burnaby.



Wreaths adorn the Cenotaph at Victory Square in downtown Vancouver following the Remembrance Day ceremony in 2009. The words inscribed on the Cenotaph, *Their Name Liveth Forever More*, were written by Rudyard Kipling for use by the War Graves Commission after the First World War. The phrase is carved into the Stone of Remembrance at all Commission war graves cemeteries with more than 1000 graves. Kipling was active with the Commission from its outset after his son Jack, an 18-year old myopic Second Lieutenant with the Irish Guards, went missing and was presumed killed during the Battle of Loos in September 1915.

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