

Early Vancouver

Volume Two

By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1933)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.

Supplemental to volume one collected in 1931.

About the 2011 Edition

The 2011 edition is a transcription of the original work collected and published by Major Matthews. Handwritten marginalia and corrections Matthews made to his text over the years have been incorporated and some typographical errors have been corrected, but no other editorial work has been undertaken. The edition and its online presentation was produced by the City of Vancouver Archives to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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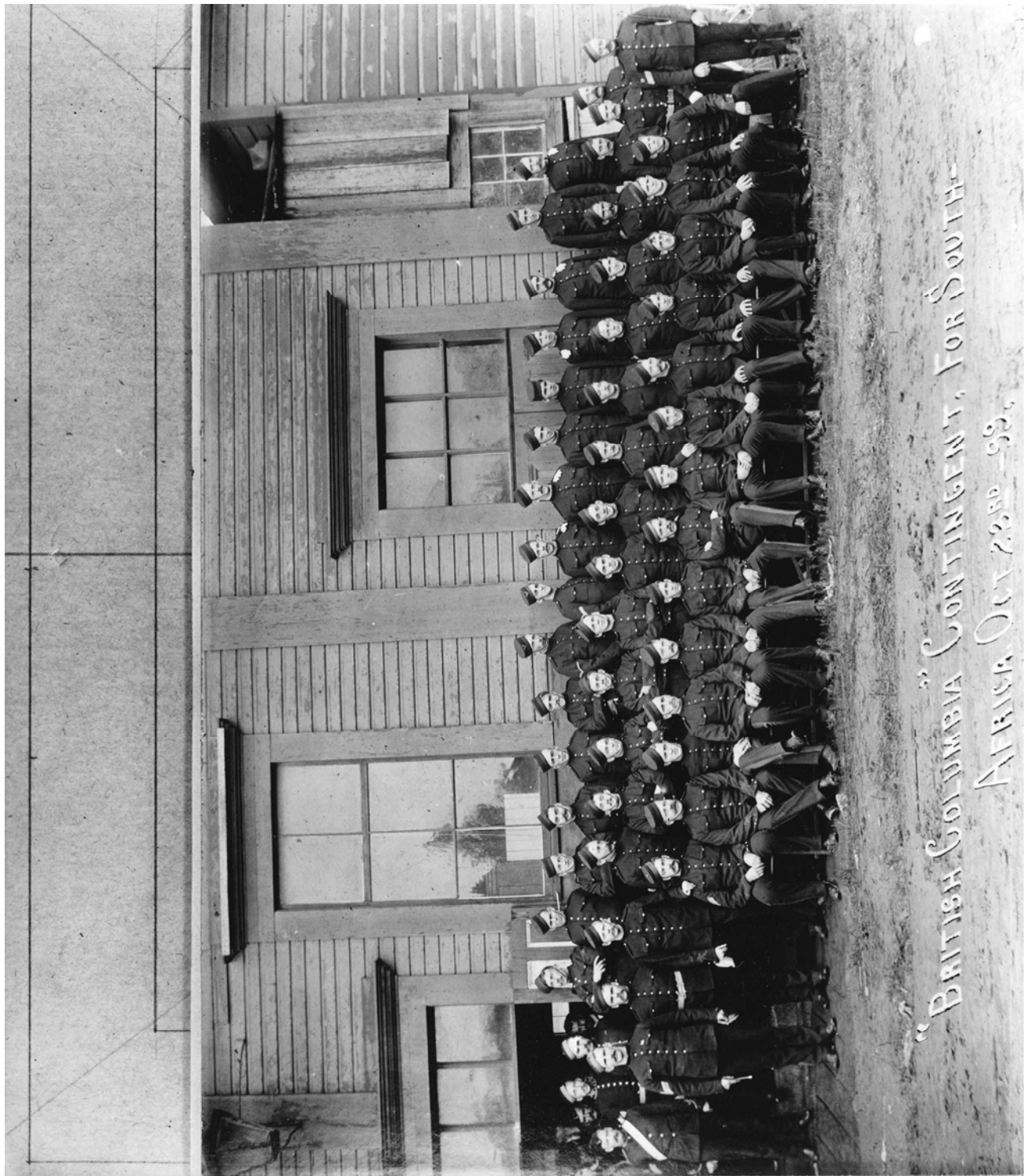




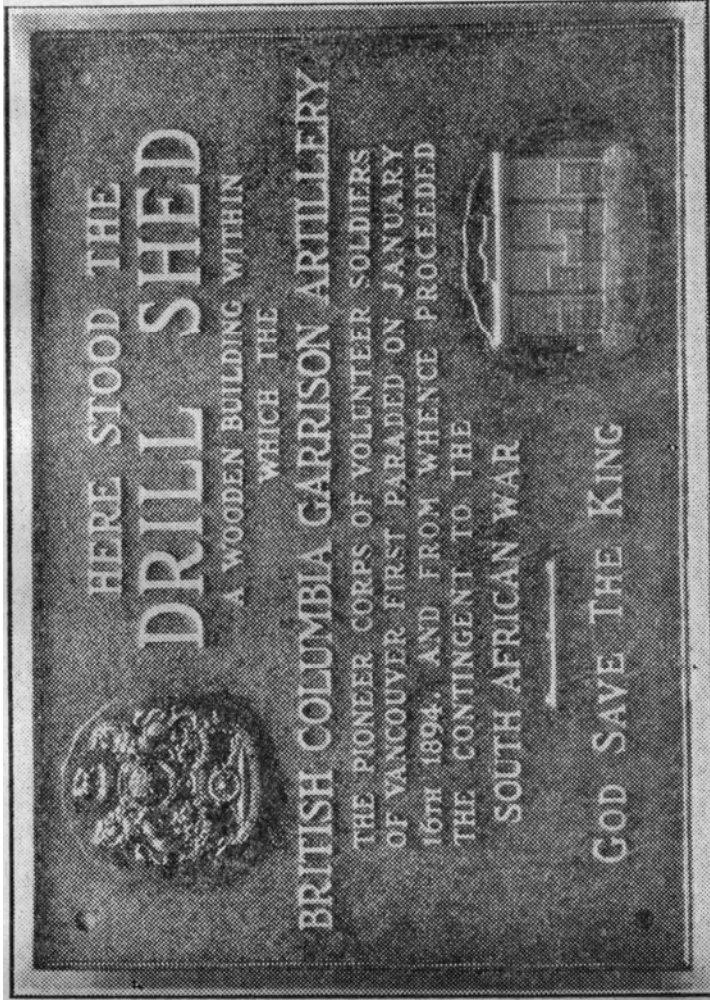
**IMPERIAL OPERA HOUSE, 1889, used
as first Drill Hall 1894.**

x
The Old Drill Shed
(Formerly Imperial Opera House)
now (1932) Whelly Building (part only)
Foot of Beatty St Vancouver

Item # EarlyVan_v2_150



Item # EarlyVan_v2_151



THIS BRONZE TABLET was designed and made by The Geo. H. Hewitt Co., Ltd., of Vancouver, for the Officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the Vancouver Garrison. It was recently unveiled in Christ Church Cathedral and will be placed in the rotunda of the Shelley Building which now covers the site. It is a handsome plate and a credit to both maker and erector.

Designed by J.S. Matthews

Item # EarlyVan_v2_152

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR (BOER WAR). 2ND BATTALION, 5TH REGIMENT, CANADIAN GARRISON ARTILLERY.

The Vancouver, Victoria, and New Westminster members of the contingent from British Columbia to the Boer War. On the day before their entrainment for the east, a photograph was taken on the return from church parade (Sunday) in front of the old Imperial Opera House, Pender Street, then and for some years previously serving as a Drill Shed. The photograph shows three rows, the foremost seated, of soldiers in "pill box" head gear, white gloves, before a wooden building, i.e. the Drill Shed. In front is a road, partly mud, partly grass; this is Pender Street West at the foot of Beatty Street. The personnel in this photograph are as follows:

Left to right, sitting: Sergeant J. Moscrop, Private A. Lohman (wounded), H. Neibergall (wounded), Otway Wilkie, Robert Mackie, A.S. Batson, J. Porter Smith, C.L. Leamy, Stephen C. Court or W.H. Brooking, Wallis, Maundrell (killed in action), John Todd (killed in action), F.J. Cornwall, H. Carter.

Left to right, middle row: Sergeant J.W. Scott, Private John H. Summers (killed in action), S.W. O'Brien, W. Jackson (killed in action), Geo. S. Hutchings, J.H. Livingstone, A.J. Nye, W.H. Brooking or Stephen C. Court, Ralph W.J. Leeman, Wm. H. Brethour, J. Anderton, J.H. Dixon, Temple, James Stewart, Jas. W. Jones, F. Finch-Smiles (wounded), R. McCalmont, Harry J. Andrews (wounded), Sergeant J.R. Northcott.

Left to right, back row: J.J. Sinclair, Percy Greaves, H.J. Allan, H.W. Bonner, W.R. Whitley (died in South Africa), C.C. Thompson (wounded), W.D. Wallace, G.B. Corbould (afterwards Lieutenant Colonel), A.M. Woods, Seymour H. O'Dell, Clark Gamble, Arthur Mundell, Alex C. Beech (wounded), Harry Smethurst, W.H. Stebbings, Cecil M. Roberts.

Absent from photograph: Private Sid Harrison (killed in action, 18 February 1900 at Paardeberg.)

In doorway, but not in South African contingent:

Orderly Room Sergeant Henderson, wearing white crossbelt (F.S. Cap.)

Colour-Sergeant W.W. Foster, afterwards Col. W.W. Foster, D.S.O., A.D.C. (Pillbox).

Sergeant-Major J.C. Cornish, formerly Master Gunner of C Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery and a member of Canada's first permanent force, still living at White Rock, B.C. in 1933. Wearing pill box.

Quartermaster Sergeant Frank Kennedy, concealing behind Sergeant Foster, and wearing field service cap. Afterwards Capt. F. Kennedy. It was to Capt. Kennedy that the celebrated Indian chief Poundmaker surrendered at the termination of the North West (Riel) Rebellion, 1885.

The company was known as A Company, 2nd (Special Service) Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, and was sworn in on Friday night by Lieut.-Col. C.A. Worsnop, commanding 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment Canadian Garrison Artillery, given leave until Sunday morning, went to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for divine service on Sunday morning, had photo taken, slept on the board floor of the Drill Shed on Sunday night, and entrained by C.P.R. for South Africa on Monday morning, 23 October 1899.

Cornwall was a son of Lt.-Gov. Cornwall.

Total strength 50. Captain M.G. Blanchard in command. He was afterwards adjutant of the 2nd (Special Service) Battalion R.C.R. in South Africa.

The above particulars were furnished, from memory, by Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant G.S. Hutchings in 1933. He served as such in the 102nd Battalion "North British Columbians," C.E.F.

DECEMBER 1932 – REGIMENTAL BADGES.

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT.

The badge of the Westminster Regiment is an adaptation of the family crest of the family of Matthews of Newtown, Mont., North Wales, and Kitsilano Beach, Vancouver; a maple leaf before a setting sun. It was adopted about 1931 or 1932, in its first form about 1931, officially about 1932. It arose in this manner.