

Early Vancouver

Volume Two

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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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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.

For some years after the war, regiments and other units used for their cap badges the crests of the overseas battalions which they perpetuated, but ultimately a militia order was issued stating that the new militia regiments must drop these badges—they were the badges of overseas battalions which had been disbanded, and the new militia regiments were distinct entities, and must adopt their own. Col. Corbould was commanding the Westminster Regiment and, together with Capt. Williams, paid a visit to Major Matthews, an authority of regimental badges, family crests, etc., to get his viewpoint of what should be adopted. Many designs were discussed. Finally, Major Matthews, without letting the two officers know that the maple leaf and the setting sun were his own mark of achievement, said, “How would this do?” and drew a sketch of a maple leaf and setting sun. It was adopted for submission to the officers of the regiment for their approval. Every endeavour was made to preserve in the centre of the maple leaf the numerals “47,” perpetuating the number of the 47th Overseas Battalion, but the militia authorities would not permit it, and the battle patch was substituted. (Authority: J.S. Matthews.)

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT, D.C.O.R.

This badge was adopted early in 1931 from a design made by Lt. Col. G.H. Whyte, M.C., a son of a former commanding officer, Lt. Col. J.C. Whyte (1903), and who *ordered* its adoption soon after he took over his father’s former command. Col. Whyte adopted a very arbitrary method of making it the regimental badge. He was an old overseas engineer officer, and the badge presents some similarity to the badge of the engineers. Further, an attempt was made to follow the form of the badge of the Rifle Brigade (of England). Col. Whyte drew the design, submitted it to one or two officers, disregarded the opinion of those who made suggestions, did not consult his officers in mess assembled, but ordered the die made and reported it for approval by the militia authorities, who, unaware of the facts, authorized it. It was a high-handed action. The badge was strongly disapproved by some of his officers—the older ones—as not symbolizing the achievements of Canadian soldiers of the 6th Regiment D.C.O.R. and 7th Battalion, C.E.F., but as too strongly emphasizing that of the Rifle Brigade, a splendid English unit, but one with which, while allied, was very remote.