

# 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. Schar Schmidt

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