



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 ascending angel carrying a dead soldier and commemorates those railway employees 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 conflict 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 11 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 sent 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.