

Sergeant Major George Arthur Clements (1871- 1924)



Born in Lewes Sussex England on 14 February 1871 he enrolled in the Imperial Forces in 1891, joining the Royal Engineers in 1893. During his time with the RE he served in a number of foreign posts including Malta, India and Ceylon

In 1899 he was transferred to Esquimalt as a diver and initially worked on laying underwater mines for the defense of the naval base. When the responsibility for the Halifax and Esquimalt bases was transferred to Canada in 1906 he had the choice of returning to the UK or staying in Canada and transferring from the RE to the RCE. He stayed in Canada. During the Great War he moved to North Vancouver and was the Sgt Major and senior instructor for the Engineer training centre.

After the war he stayed in North Vancouver as a special representative and works officer for the Senior Engineer Officer of M.D. 11. He worked with the 6th until his death on the 19th of December 1924. He was survived by his wife Edith and two daughters.

His funeral at Christ Church in Vancouver, up to that time, was one of the largest ever held in Vancouver. Inspector Irving of the RCMP was in charge assisted by 6 Fd Coy CE and a detachment of the PPCLI. Most of the pallbearers were Senior NCOs from 6 Fd Coy CE including CSM Gill and CQMS Holland. Honourary pallbearers included LCol Fell, Major J.E. Ward and Major P.E. Ward. The band of the Vancouver Regiment provided music for the procession to Mountain View Cemetery. At the gravesite the firing party was provided by RCE and PPCLI personnel from Esquimalt.