

Major John Eades Ward (1878-1940)



He served in the artillery, cavalry, infantry and engineers and helped found the Notary Publics of British Columbia.

Born on Christmas Eve 1878 in Sheffield England he first articulated with a chartered accountants firm. He entered military service in the United Kingdom with the Worcestershire and Warwickshire Artillery and later served with the Monmouth Field Artillery. He then served with the 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen Bays) in South Africa where he was involved in a number of skirmishes and battles and although his unit captured Commandant Pretorius they were unsuccessful in their pursuit of Boer General Christiaan Rudolf de Wet.

He left the British Army after the Boer War and came to Canada where he joined the 6th Regiment Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles in Vancouver before transferring to 6 FC CE. During that time he formed a successful partnership with a fellow "Duke's" officer J.D. Inkster to form Inkster, Ward & Co a real estate brokerage firm. In 1911, when he transferred to 6 FC he was living in Vancouver with his wife Louise and his young daughters Lulu and Mary.

When the war started he was a Captain and second-in-command of 6 Field Company. In accordance with military custom he remained behind to command the engineer training centre in North Vancouver. In 1915 he was promoted to Major and commanded the centre until the end of the war. After the war he left the 6th having spent 18 years in military service.

He then became a Notary Public and during their first annual meeting, in 1926, he and others urged the assembled Notaries to incorporate under the Society Act in order to obtain legal standing. A few months later The Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia was duly registered.

He then became their first full-time Secretary and manned the Society's office in Vancouver. It was a one-man job. He considered his first priority was to build up the Society's membership. His membership roster for the year 1927 showed 626 Notaries enrolled. Ward's second priority was to educate the new members. He arranged for study sessions on law and had textbooks printed and distributed. Ward retired in 1939 after 13 years with the Society.

Through the 20s and 30s he continued to maintain close contacts with the military. He became the local director of the Returned Soldier's Club and the chairman and director of the Poppy Fund. At the time of his death he was the secretary of the B.C. Provincial Command of the Army and Navy Veterans in Canada.

John Eades Ward passed away on 18 April 1940 at the age of 61. He was survived by his wife Louise, two sons, three daughters, three brothers and two grandchildren.