

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES PEMBERTON FELL (1872-1960)



J.P. Fell was born in Staffordshire England in 1872 and educated at Harrow. It was at Harrow where his life-long interest in the military emerged. There he joined the Yorkshire Artillery Regiment Territorial Army rising to the rank of Captain.

In 1897 he immigrated to North Vancouver joining the North Vancouver Land and Improvement Company where he helped manage the Lonsdale Estates plus plan and layout what is now the City of North Vancouver. Fell Avenue is named after him.

In 1905 he was commissioned in the Canadian militia. Then in 1910 the citizens committee form a North Vancouver militia unit asked him to become the new unit's first Commanding Officer. On 11 February 1911 when 6 Field Company Canadian Engineers was established Major J.P. Fell was appointed to command.

For the next two years he helped prepare the unit for war. In August 1914 he led the first North Vancouver contingent overseas. He commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Field Companies of the Canadian Engineers on the Western Front and had his horse shot out from under him at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres. Upon completion of his battlefield tours he was transferred to the Canadian Engineer Training Depot in England where he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and which he commanded..

In 1919 he returned to North Vancouver and resumed his business activities with the North Vancouver Land and Improvement Company, becoming a active and vocal member of the community.

In 1920 he was awarded the Order of the British Empire. Between 1921 and 1926 he served as the CRE for British Columbia's 11 Military District. Upon retiring from the militia he became the first Honourary Lieutenant Colonel of 6 Field Company and from 1946 to 1960 the Honourary Colonel of 7 Field Engineer Regiment. In 1960 he received the Canadian Forces Decoration, with two clasps, in recognition of over 50 years service.

J.P. Fell was a founder of the BC Corps of Commissionaires and served as its chairman from 1931 to 1954. He was also provincial chairman of the National Canadian War Services Fund in 1941 and the president of the Vancouver chapter of the Canadian Club in 1946.

J.P. Fell passed away on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 1960 in Vancouver.