

## **GILL COMPANY SERGEANT MAJOR JOSEPH GILL (1879-1939)**



Joseph Gill was born in St. Helen's Lancashire U.K. on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1879 and spent the first 32 years of his life in England. He was lightly built 5'9" tall with black hair and a dark complexion.

Before moving to Canada he served part-time in Britain's Territorial Army, joining the Lancashire Fortress Engineers, Royal Engineers in 1896. He was 19 years old. At 24 he was a Company Sergeant Major, a position he held for 6 more years. He later served five years as the Company Sergeant Major of the West Lancashire Field Company, Royal Engineers.

In 1911 he left England and immigrated to North Vancouver, By 1913 he was working as a carpenter, married and the Company Sergeant Major of 6 Field Company Canadian Engineers. Although a volunteer for overseas service Major Fell decided. to keep him in North Vancouver as a Sergeant Major in the Engineer Training Depot. As such, he spent his war in North Vancouver preparing over 3000 men for overseas service.

At war's end he returned to family, carpentry and part-time service with the 6<sup>th</sup>. By 1933 he was 54 years old and had served 21 years as the Company Sergeant Major. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 1933 he left 6 Field Company to become the Acting Regimental Sergeant Major of 11 Militia District Engineers. By the time he retired he had been a Sergeant Major for over 30 years.

He passed away on August 19<sup>th</sup> 1939 in North Vancouver in his 60<sup>th</sup> year. He was survived by his wife Ethel, a daughter, his son Cecil (who also served as a Sergeant Major of the 6<sup>th</sup>) and three grandchildren. Within a week his beloved 6<sup>th</sup> was activated for the Second World War.