

Major General John Percival Mackenzie C.B. D.S.O. (1884- 1961)



John Percival Mackenzie was born in Botsevain Manitoba in 1884. Between 1901 -1907 he served as a trooper in the Governor-General's Foot Guards, rising through the ranks. He was educated in Glasgow Scotland and the University of Toronto between 1907 and 1914. He first worked as a civil engineer with the Canadian Northern Railway.

In 1914 he joined the Fort Garry Horse and on reaching England was transferred to the 8th Canadian Infantry Battalion CEF. He later transferred to the Engineers and in 1918 was the Brigade Major of the 1st Canadian Engineer Brigade. He was awarded the DSO with 2 bars and the French *Croix de Guerre*. His second DSO citation received while he was the Brigade Major of the 1st Canadian Engineer Brigade CEF reads:

During the recent operations he has on several occasions under fire made daylight reconnaissances in order to get the required information for the selection of bridge crossings. During the advance on Cambrai and Douai, September and October, 1918, it was due to his quick grasp of the situation and determined action that the infantry, field and heavy artillery, ambulance and ammunition were able to cross all obstacles with the least possible delay.

By 1919 he was a Lt Col and in command of the 1st Canadian Engineer Battalion on occupation duty in Germany.

After the war he moved to Vancouver, returned to his civilian occupation as an engineer and was instrumental in re-establishing 6 Field Company. He served as its Commanding Officer from 1921 to 1924. Between 1929 and 1939 he returned to the infantry and commanded the 29th Infantry Battalion (Tobin's Tigers) NPAM in Vancouver.

The Second World War found him again in an Engineer's uniform and between 1939 and 1941 he was the CRE for the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division. He was later promoted to Colonel and appointed as Director of Works for Canadian Corps in England and then then promoted to Brigadier to command the 6th Infantry Brigade.

In 1942 he returned to Canada and became the Quartermaster-General of the Canadian Forces. In 1943 he was again promoted and served as Inspector General of Military forces in Western Canada until retiring as a Major-General in November, 1944. For these services he was awarded the Order of Companion of the Bath, (CB) and the Canadian Efficiency Decoration.

After leaving the military he became the manager for Western Bridge and Steel Fabricators Ltd in Vancouver, a position he held until 1955. Following his retirement he lived at the Vancouver Club. He died of a heart attack at supper at the club on the 26th of August 1961.