

Lieutenant Colonel Little (1868 – 17 June 1931)

Lieutenant Colonel James Little was born in Trenton, Ontario in 1868. He came to Port Arthur in 1903 as a branch manager of Molson's Bank, a position he held until 1916. While manager of Molson's Bank, Lieutenant Colonel Little had a large part in designing and supervising the building on the corner of Park Avenue and Cumberland Street that would later be occupied by the Bank of Montreal and today is the Prospector Steakhouse. Within the first few years he spent in Port Arthur he took an active interest in the militia units. Lieutenant Colonel Little was one of the first officers of the 96th battalion and was put second in command when first organized in 1905. In 1916, Little resigned from Molson's Bank and became the president of the Thunder Bay Harbor Improvement company, a connection he kept for the remainder of his life until he passed away on 17 June, 1931 at the age of 63. During World War One, Lieutenant Colonel Little was appointed commandant of Internment at the Lakehead. During the early period of the war, it was commonly thought that an internment camp would be set up in the Thunder Bay district. However, an actual camp was never realized but Lieutenant Colonel Little still played the part of supervising transportation of 'enemy aliens'.

References

"1500 Prisoners of War to be Kept Here." *Daily News* (Port Arthur, ON), January 11, 1915.

"Death Called Lt. Col. Little of Pt. Arthur." *Daily Times Journal* (Fort William, ON), June 18, 1931.

1500 Prisoners of War are to be Kept Here

Lieut.-Col. Little Appointed Commandant of the Internment Camp—Use Railway Bunk Houses and Other Buildings.

An internment station for the detention of alien enemies will be established at Port Arthur and Fort William immediately.

Preliminary arrangements for such action have been in progress since appointment of registrars in the two cities some weeks ago and today Lieut.-Colonel Little, commanding officer of the Ninety-Sixth regiment, was notified from Winnipeg, the headquarters of the military district, that he had been appointed commandant of the internment camp. He was also asked to conclude a lease of the C.P. R. bunk houses at Fort William for the accommodation of as many as it will take, which is about 450.

Other Buildings Needed

Further arrangements will be made for the use of other buildings as it is expected there will be between ten

and twelve hundred men and four and five hundred women and children to take care of.

They will be treated as actual prisoners of war and kept within restricted areas with a military guard, which means that the local force will have to be again augmented considerably.

The men and the women and children will be kept in different camps.

The prisoners will be Austrians, Germans and Turks who are at present in destitute circumstances and, therefore, considered as a possible menace to the country. They will be provided for by the government and one of the matters to be arranged, after the establishment of the internment station, will be the employment of the men, as the general policy is to put them to work at clearing land making roads or in other convenient ways.

DEATH CALLS

LT. COL. LITTLE

OF PT. ARTHUR

Prominent Citizen and Lakehead Pioneer Succumbs To Pneumonia Attack

FLAGS AT HALF MAST IN NEIGHBORING CITY

Failing to recover from the lengthy illness from which he had been suffering, Lieut.-Col. James A. Little, one of the most prominent citizens of the twin cities, died about 9.30 o'clock last evening at his home, 491 Red River road, Port Arthur.

Col. Little had been ill for several weeks from pneumonia, with a complication of heart disease. About a week ago he seemed to rally, and was said to be somewhat improved. Yesterday he became critically ill, however, and hope that he would recover was abandoned early in the afternoon.

Funeral Friday

The funeral will be held at 2.30 o'clock tomorrow, Friday, afternoon at St. John's church, Port Arthur. The rector, the Rev. A. J. Bull, will officiate. The body will lie in state at the church between 1 and 2.30 o'clock. Interment will be in Riverside cemetery.

Although the news of Col. Little's passing was not unexpected, it was received with regret throughout the twin cities today. Flags were flown at half mast on the principal public buildings of Port Arthur today in his honor.

Active Career

Col. Little was a pioneer resident of Port Arthur, and probably none of its citizens was better known than was he. He came to the lakehead in 1903, and has resided here since that time, always taking a keen interest in the progress of his home city and making his contribution towards its advancement.

Born in Trenton, Ont., in 1868, Col. Little was a son of Bay of Quinte pioneers, who were among the most suc-

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Death Calls Lt.-Col. Little

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Successful members of the agricultural community near that town. As a boy, James Little received his education in the public and high schools of Trenton, later attending university.

He entered the Molson's bank in Trenton when still a young man, and was stationed in Smiths Falls, Ont., for a time, then went to the head office of the bank in Montreal. From there he came to Port Arthur as manager of the branch, which position he retained from 1903 until 1916. It was while he was manager of the Molson's bank in Port Arthur that Col. Little had a large part in designing and supervising the erection of the substantial building on the corner of Park and Cumberland streets, which is now occupied by the Bank of Montreal.

President of Company

In 1916 Col. Little resigned from his position in the bank to become president of the Thunder Bay Harbor Improvement company, and he retained this connection for the remainder of his life. He also was associated with other companies in the city, which lose a valued director and honored executive in his passing.

Col. Little always took an active interest in the militia units at the lakehead. He was one of the first officers of the 96th battalion, which was the original unit in the twin cities, and was second in command of the battalion when it was organized in 1905.

He served on the parks board several years ago, but never aspired to more exalted civic honors. He was a staunch member of St. John's Anglican church, and was a member of the Masonic fraternity.

Twenty years ago Col. Little was united in marriage to Ethel M. Wardrope of Port Arthur. They had two children, James G., who is attending Ridley college in St. Catharines, Ont., and Mary, who is attending the Bishop Strachan school in Toronto. Col. Little also is survived by his mother, one brother, George, and one sister, Mrs. A. E. Bywater, all of Toronto.

Tribute From Jurist

At the opening of the sittings of the division court in Fort William this afternoon, His Honor Judge Kenny addressed the court as follows:

"I have received the sad news of the death of Colonel Little. Port Arthur has lost one of its ablest and best citizens. He was a man of great strength of character."

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Police Court