



Street Stories

Watkins Terrace

GPS: [49.14892,-122.34827](https://www.google.com/maps/place/49.14892,-122.34827)



Lieutenant Albert "Ted" Watkins , c.1918

Courtesy Mission Community Archives

Albert Edward (Ted) Watkins was born in Winnipeg in 1894, but his parents moved to Mission in 1896. The family first lived near Silver Creek, then moved to Silverdale, where they established a berry farm. Ted's father was also a building contractor. As a boy, Ted and his siblings had to walk along the CPR railway to school in Mission and carry an axe to scare off the cougars!

Soon after he finished school, the First World War broke out and, in 1915, Ted enlisted with the Canadian Army. He served as a Lewis gunner in Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele and won the Military Medal. Ted worked his way up from private to sergeant and was eventually commissioned as an officer in 1918.

Upon returning home to Mission, Ted met Jean Fraser. They married in 1920 and had three children: Evan, Barbara, and Edith.

Like his father, Ted was a building contractor. For a while in the 1920s, he and his family left Mission so he could work in Vancouver and later Ladysmith, building mills and bunkhouses. Edith died in Ladysmith at

the age of five. Two years later, in 1930, the family returned to Mission.

During the Second World War, Ted was an officer commanding the local detachment of the Pacific Coast Rangers and later commanded the Reserve C Company of the Westminster Regiment. His son Evan also served, fighting in Italy and northwest Europe. After the war, Ted continued working in construction and was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Oddfellows.

Having survived two world wars, Ted Watkins continued working until he was 75 and held a driver's licence until he was 90. This hard-working veteran, whom his son describes as a "straight shooter," died three months after his wife on December 14, 1985. He was 91.

The street named Watkins Terrace was established by Bylaw 2851 approved by the District of Mission Council on January 16th, 1995. Street Stories is provided by the Mission Community Archives, which is operated by the Mission Historical Society.

by David Buss and Val Billesberger