

## Cpl Richard Dickinson M.M. (1894-1918)



Born in New Westminster Richard Dickinson attended the first recruiting parade for the 6<sup>th</sup> and was one of the first to join the new unit enlisting on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1912 when he was issued his company number of 16. He then served part-time with the 6<sup>th</sup> for the next 2 ½ years while simultaneously holding down a job as a sailor aboard the harbour ferry.

In August 1914 he went overseas with the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Company of the first contingent. On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1915 he married Beatrice Milner from Yorkshire England. By early 1915 he was in France where he was gassed and wounded on June 6, 1915. He was also one of the first unit members decorated for bravery, receiving the Military Medal in November of 1916.

On April 1917 he was promoted to corporal and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> was again wounded by shrapnel. After leaving hospital he was posted to the engineer school in Seaford in England, where he made an Acting Sergeant and employed as a Field Instructor. Bored with the routine work in a training school he got into trouble, was charged and reverted to Corporal. He volunteered to return to the front. He went back to France and rejoined the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Company where he was severely gassed on July 27, 1918. A month later, on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, he died of bullet wounds from a German machine gun at L'Esperance at the junction of the Arras and Cambrai Roads. In a little over two months the war would be over.

His wife Beatrice eventually moved to Canada and settled near his family in North Vancouver. In 1927 she married John Thomas, a tugboat operator, with members of Richard's family acting as witnesses to her new marriage. She passed away in 1964.