

## **RICHARDS, Paul**

Service Number C77257

Rank Major  
Medals Military Cross and Bar  
Imperial Army, Machine Gun Corps, 61<sup>st</sup> Coy

Born March 31, 1887, Bristol, England  
Died October 3, 1918

Occupation Rancher  
Marital Status Married to Enid

Born in Bristol, Paul Richards was educated at Bath College, Somerset. In 1905, when he was 18, his family emigrated to Canada. His parents settled in Ontario while Paul headed west. He took up ranching in Parksville and is listed there in the early BC Directories.

In November 1914, Paul Richards enlisted as a private in the 88<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Victoria Fusiliers. He was transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion on arrival in France. In 1916, he returned to Bristol for a course at No. 3 Bristol Cadet Battalion and was granted a month's furlough afterward. It may be that he married his Parksville fiancée, Enid, at this time, as he was single on enlistment. His Canadian military records all list him as single, but the Commonwealth War Graves list him as husband of Enid M R Richards of Parksville.

Following the cadet course, he was discharged from the Canadian Infantry and received a commission to the Imperial Army, to the Machine Gun Corps. During the summer of 1917, he received a Military Cross and a second bar in 1918 for displaying courage and leadership despite being wounded and against severe odds.

Paul Richards was killed in action on October 2, 1918. He is buried at Merville Cemetery Extension, Nord, France, and is commemorated at Bath College, Somerset.

Sources: Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada  
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada  
BC Directories / Vancouver Public Library  
Great War Forum.org / Major Paul Richards mc bar 61<sup>st</sup> coy machine gun corps

