



Pte John Edwin Richards
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 715

Born: 25 November 1897

Place of Birth: Bareneed

Parents: William and Elizabeth Richards

As indicated by his regimental service number of 915, John was one the first one thousand men to enlist in the 1st Newfoundland Regiment to fight for King and Country.

John's enlistment documents are quite detailed and provide a picture of a young man, only nineteen, who stood 5feet 7 inches tall, had light brown hair, blue eyes, and an identifying scar on his left hand.

His service record covers the time of enlistment to date of discharge, the 15th of

December 1915 to the 4th of April 1917, a period of 2 years and 111 days.

The official record reads:

1. Enlisted 15 December 1915
2. St. John's 15 December 1915 to 5 February 1916
3. S.S. Dominion 5 February 1916 to 15 February 1916
4. Edinburgh 15 February 1916 – **Final Entry not completed**
5. The 12th of July 1916 wounded. Gunshot wound from a sniper's bullet which severely mangled his right hand. All finger on the hand had to be amputated and eventually the hand too.

The resulting injury was so serious that Pte. Richards was transferred to several hospitals and then on to the Pavilion Military Hospital in London. An artificial limb was provided, and John was declared medically unfit for further service. He was shipped home to Newfoundland and discharged on April 4th, 1917.

Once home, John is found in 1921 census entries as living at home with parents William and Elizabeth. John, now 25 years old and married to Lizzie and they have a son William.

By 1935, John who is now a teacher but also a single parent with four children, his wife having died in 1933.

John died on the 24th of February 1957. Both John and Lizzie are buried in the St. Mark's Anglican Church Cemetery at Bareneed.