

Archibald Mercer

Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force

Regimental No. 715487

World War I

Born: 21 Jan 1892

Died: 29 Jan 1922

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

Parents: William and Rachel Mercer

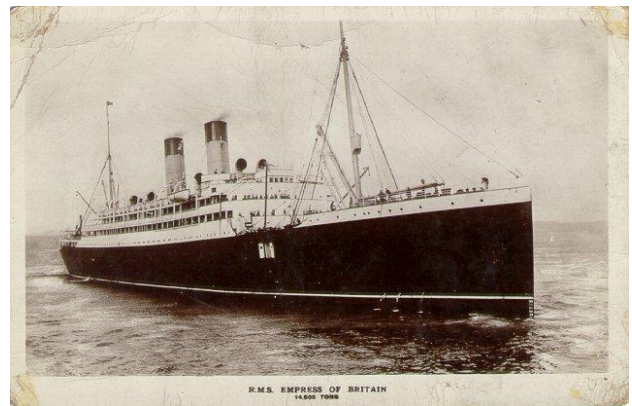
Archibald was living in North Sydney, Nova Scotia when he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on December the 10th, 1915. His enlistment papers paint a picture of Archibald at 21 years old as being 5' 6 ½ " tall, 145 lbs, having medium brown hair and blue eyes. He had a distinguishing triangular mark on his right forearm. He was single, gave his trade as seaman and Methodist by faith.

Archibald had previous militia service with the 94th Regiment. Upon enlistment, he was now assigned to the 106th Battalion, "D" Company.

Form the time of his enlistment to the date of his discharge, Archibald would serve a total of three (3) years and two (2) months in the CEF.

Here are some excerpts from his official service record:

1. 25 – 09 – 1916: Arrived England on board the SS Empress of Britain



SS Empress of Briton

"In 1914 the Admiralty requisitioned her and she was refitted as an armed merchant cruiser. She joined Admiral Archibald Peille Stoddart's squadron in the South Atlantic. She later patrolled between Cape Finisterre and the Cape Verde Islands.

In May 1915, she was recommissioned as a troop transport and carried more than 110,000 troops to the Dardanelles, Egypt and India. She also carried Canadian and US expeditionary forces across the North Atlantic.^[3]

On 12 December 1915, while passing through the Straits of Gibraltar, she collided with and sank a Greek steamer.^[3] It was the night of 13 December Empress of Britain collided with an empty French troop

ship, Djuradjura, returning from Salonika, the French troop ship was cut in half by the engine room and two French stokers were killed. 62 crew were rescued”

2. 29 – 09 – 16: SOS (struck off strength) on transfer to the 26th battalion from the 106th
3. 12 – 10 – 16: TOS (taken on strength) of 26th battalion
4. 17 – 01 – 1917: Wounded (shrapnel)
5. 30 – 01 – 17: Wounded (no details)
6. 05 – 02 – 17: Admitted #5 Canadian field Ambulance
7. 05 – 03 – 17: Rejoined unit
8. 27 – 04 – 17: Wounded remained on duty
9. 13 – 10 – 1918: Wounded GSW (gunshot wound) to wrist
10. 15 – 10 – 17: Invalided to Bramshot
11. 19 – 02 – 1919: Discharged at Halifax, Nova Scotia

It seems following the war, Archibald married a young lady , Alfreda Roberts, “Freda”. Freda became pregnant with their first child, a son Archibald born in 1922.

Archibald never got to see his son as he died in January of that same year, 1922.

He is buried in the United Church Cemetery at Bay Roberts.