



Rev. Cecil W. G. Mosdell
Royal Canadian Army Service Corps 3rd Division
RCASC
Regimental No. K78916
Canadian Active Service Force
CASF
World War II

Born: 14 Dec 1906

Died: 15 Jun 1994

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Conception Bay,
Newfoundland

Parents: Richard and Mary (nee Rabbitts) Mosdell

Cecil was the first child born to parents Richard and Mary. Born in Bay Roberts, Cecil would become an Anglican Minister, missionary and enlist in the Canadian Army, as a member of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC) as well as a member of the Canadian Active Service Force or CASF.

By the time of the 1921 Newfoundland general census, the Mosdell family had relocated from Bay Roberts to Port Aux Basques, where dad, Richard, had become Agent for the Reid or Newfoundland Railway.

Richard is 14 and his siblings Lance 17, Harold & Richard, twin boys 13, Mary 10, Margaret 7, Dorothy 6, Patricia 3, and baby Minerva 6 months.

Following high school graduation, Cecil worked as an electrician with the British Thompson Houston Company as an electrician on the construction of the Deer Lake Powerhouse.

In 1928 he entered Queen's College, studied for the ministry, and was ordained an Anglican Minister in 1932, later becoming an Anglican Priest.

The 1935 census lists Rev. Cecil as a lodger in the home of Malcolm and Susan Jenkins of Woody Point, St. Barbe, Newfoundland. Cecil is now 28 years old and is not married.

Three (3) years later, in 1938, Cecil is a missionary for the Anglican Church in the Interlake Region of Manitoba.

Here is an excerpt from Manitoba Archives that relates to Rev. Cecil:

"The Hamlet of Faulkner is located south of Fairford. St George's Church, Faulkner was established in 1938. Travelling Missionary Rev Cecil Mosdell, and Mrs. Buckley, a staunch Anglican who lived in the district, worked together to establish St George. The building came from a local farm, and another settler donated the land. The DORCAS in Winnipeg provided an organ, prayer desk, and bible. The Woman's Auxiliary provided altar hangings and local people made the altar and the benches. The Woman's Auxiliary from St George, Crescentwood gave 30 chairs, a silver communion set and money for a chance. Archbishop Harding dedicated the church. The mission was cared for by travelling missionaries and theology students in the summer, including, among others: George Kelly, Harry Daniels, Maurice Wilkinson, Ken Wankling, Len Fryer, the Rev Silverstone, and the Rev Holmes. By the 1960s, the church was not in regular use and was vandalized. In 1971, the church was formally closed. The organ went to Fairford, and the building was sold to a local farmer as a granary."

An entry on the Canadian Voters List for Vancouver Centre dated 1940 finds Rev. Cecil living on Hastings Street East, apartment 420.

In early 1940, Rev. Cecil enlisted in the Canadian Army as a private and became part of the 3rd Division. Patrol Company of the RCASC and the CASF.

Canadian Active Service Force History:

CASF stands for Canadian Active Service Force, which was the field force raised by the Canadian Army during World War II. It was distinct from the Permanent Active Militia and Non-Permanent Active Militia, and soldiers had to be attested for service. CASF began recruiting on September 1, 1939, and was officially mobilized on the same date. The term was later replaced by "Canadian Army (Active)" in late 1940, reflecting the shift to full-time military units.

Below are clippings from two newspapers in St. John's, Newfoundland that mention Cecil.

From The Observer's Weekly 16 February 1943

The Mosdell Family

Here in the City now on short leave is Chief Petty Officer Herbert Mosdell, son of Mr and Mrs. Richard Mosdell, of LeMarchant Road, who has been overseas since 1940. His promotion was rapid, from ordinary seaman to rating; second hand Petty Officer, and now C.P.O. He served in the British and Eastern Mediterranean waters. Other members of the same family now serving are: Cecil W. G. Mosdell, Canadian Army Service Corps; a second brother, Richard, junior, 3rd. Engineer in the Merchant Navy; a third brother Lance, on vital war work with the American Government, and a sister, Dorothy, who enlisted in the C.W.A.C., December 15th. 1942, and is now in uniform in Canada.

Here is another record worth while.

From The Evening Telegram 22 June 1940

Nfld. Minister Joins Canadian Army

Tuesday, Mr. and Mrs. R. Mosdell, 174 LeMarchant road, were advised that their son the Rev. Cecil Mosdell had joined the Canadian Army as a private, Regimental No. K78916 3rd Division, Petrol Co., R.C.A.S.C., C.A.S.F. somewhere in Canada.

The Rev. Cecil Mosdell was born December 14th, 1906 at Bay Roberts. His father having been transferred to Port aux Basques, he attended Chappel High School where he obtained his A.A. in 1922, then served his time with the British Thompson Houston Company as electrician during the construction of the Deer Lake Power House, and for a time was on the control switchboard. On February 7th, 1928, he entered Queen's College and studied for the Anglican Church, was ordained Deacon on October 30th, 1932, and elevated to the priesthood October 29th, 1933. During the year of 1932, he was curate at St. George's, and from 1933 to 1936 was Priest in charge of the Parish at Bonne Bay. In 1936 he went to Canada and was at St. Andrew's Church, Selkirk, Winnipeg, until 1939. On the outbreak of the war he went to Vancouver, B.C., and took a physical training course.

His brother Harold is in the Royal Navy, where he served on H.M.D. Flint, and on May 9th, was transferred to H.M.D. Coldsnap. His other brother, Dick, is engineer on the cablesip "Lord Kelvin" with the Western Union Telegraph Co.

Rev Cecil passed away on June 15th, 1994. He is buried at Victory Memorial Park Cemetery in Vancouver, British Columbia.