



**Chesley Malcolm McKinley Mercer**  
**Royal Newfoundland Regiment**  
**Service No. 5034**  
**World War I**

**Born:** 28 Oct 1900

**Died:** 25 Sep 1987

**Place of Birth:** Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

**Parents;** Isaac and Alice Maud (nee Taylor) Mercer

Chesley enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1918 at the age of 18 (almost).

Physically, Chesley stood 5' 6 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> "tall and weighed 119 lbs. He signed his enlistment papers himself, listing his mother, Maud as his sole parent.

There seemed to be two problems with Chesley's enlistment. First, he was underage by 5 months, but he had given his correct date of birth initially. The error in accepting him was only discovered when he asked for and was granted leave to finish exams at Bishop Field College.

The daily orders of 18 May 1918 read "5034 Pte C. Mercer granted leave without pay to finish examinations from 15 - 5 - 18 to 1 - 7 - 18". An additional notation shows the error in age by citing "K.R. & R para 392, sub-section vi", followed by "struck off strength 20-5-1918.

Chesley was a member of the Regiment for 5 days. Once the age requirement error was discovered, he was promptly discharged.

Following the correction of the enlistment kerfuffle, Chesley went on to complete his high school examinations. The 1921 census shows him living at home with his mother, Alice Maud (widow) and his brother, Roy and Sister, Doris. He, Chesley, now 20 was working as an accountant at the Bank of Nova Scotia. Roy, 18 was working as an operator at the Western Union Cable Company in Bay Roberts and Doris at 16 was still in school.

In June 1924, Chesley and his mother (now Mrs. A.M. Andrews of Waterford Bridge Road, St. John's) travelled to Boston to visit Roy who was working with the Western Union Cable Company in Boston.

1927 finds, Chesley back in the United States and living in Astoria, Long Island, New York. He is working as a bank clerk and in April (1927) married Annie Millicent Lodge in New York. Annie is originally from St. John's, Newfoundland.

The 1930 U.S. Federal census lists the Mercers as living in Queens, New York. Chesley is 29 and Annie 30.

Chesley applied for citizenship in 1932, and his petition was granted.

The Federal census of 1940 lists the Mercer's as still in Queens. Chesley is 39,

Annie 40 and daughters E. June and Allison are 9 and 4, respectively.

By 1950, Chesley is 49, Annie 51, June 19, and Allison 14. The family is still in New York and Chesley still working at the bank.

Sometime in the 50's, the family moved to Walnut Creek, California.

Chesley passed away on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1987, in Alameda, Lafayette, Contra Costa, California.