



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

Chesley was born in Bay Roberts on October 18th, 1900, to and Maud Mercer.

He enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on the 15th of May 1918 at the age of 18 (almost).

Physically, Chesley stood 5' 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ "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 the error in age by citing "K.R. & R para 392, subsection vi", followed by "struck off strength 20-5-1918.

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

Following the correction of the enlistment kerfuffle, Chesley went on to complete his examinations. The 1921 census shows him living at home with his mother, Alice Maud (widow) and his brother, Roy and Sister, Doris.

The next census, 1935, shows Chesley living in St. Johns. He is now married to Jenny, and they have two children.

According to records, Chesley passed away on December 7, 1973, and is buried at St. John's in the Salvation Army Cemetery on Blackmarsh Road.