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Dorothy Mosdell

Canadian Women's Army Corps

CWAC

World War II

Born: 01 Sep 1915

Died: 18 Sep 2004 (Aged 89)

Place of Birth: Port aux Basques,
Newfoundland

Parents: Richard and Mary (nee Rabbitts)
Mosdell

Born at Port aux Basques, Newfoundland on September 1st 1915, Dorothy was the seventh child born to Richard and Mary Mosdell

According to records, the Mosdell family who were living in Bay Roberts when their first four children were born moved to Port aux Basques in 1910 or 1911, where Richard

sr. took a position as agent with the Newfoundland Reid Railway.

The 1921 Newfoundland general census for Port aux Basques lists the family as follows: Richard 42, Wife, Mary 40 and children, Robert 17, Cecil 14, twin boys Harold and Richard 13, Mary 10, Margaret 7, Dorothy 6, Patricia 3, and baby Minerva age 6 months.

At the time of the 1935 census, the Mosdell's had moved to St. John's. Richard is 56, wife Mary 52, children at home are: Margaret 21, Dorothy 19, Patricia 16 and Minerva 14.

Dorothy enlisted in the Canadian Women's Army Corps, commonly referred to as CWAC's.

“During the Second World War, Canadian women, for the first time, were mobilized for service in the Canadian Armed Forces. Of the approximately 50,000 women who enlisted, about half served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC). Most were assigned jobs involving traditional female work such as cooking, laundry, and clerical duties, but women also pioneered roles in the mechanized and technical fields. The CWAC performed essential services, both at home and overseas, that helped bring about Allied victory. Today, women are fully integrated into the Canadian armed forces. As of December 2024, more than 14 per cent of Canadian Army personnel were women.”

Facts about the CWAC:

1. Founded on 13 August 1941; integrated into the Canadian Army on 13 March 1942
2. Disbanded on 30 September 1946
3. 21,624 women served in the CWAC



Since World War II personnel records are not available to the public yet, it is difficult to determine anything about Dorothy's service in the CWAC. It is known that she enlisted in the CWAC on 15 December 1942 and that she may have served in Nova Scotia.

Following the war, Dorothy worked with the Income Tax Department, forerunner of the Canada Revenue Agency, as a clerk.

A 1968 Voters List from Cape Breton: The Sydney's, Nova Scotia, list her as a clerk in the Income tax department.

Dorothy passed away in September 2004 and is buried at Hardwood Hill Cemetery, Sydney, Nova Scotia. Her official obituary is added below.

Obituary

Dorothy Mosdell, 89, of Harbourstone Enhanced Care, passed away Saturday, September 18, 2004, at the home. Born in Port aux Basques, Nfld, she was the daughter of the late Richard and Mary (Rabbitts) Mosdell. Dorothy was a member of St. Georges Anglican Parish. She was a retired employee of the Income Tax

Department. A veteran of the Second World War, she served with the Canadian Army.

Survived by her brother, Harold in Nfld, sister Patricia in Florida, USA, and several nieces and nephews in Canada and the USA. Dorothy was predeceased by brothers, Lance, Cecil and Richard, sisters Mary Menerva and Margaret. A funeral service will be held in St. Georges Anglican Church, today (Monday) at 2 pm, with Rev. Fred Rhymes officiating. Interment will be in Hardwood Hill Cemetery. Family flowers only, memorial may be made to St. George's Anglican Church or Canadian Cancer Society.

**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.