



Edwin G. Mercer
World War 1
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Service No. 3597

Edwin was born on January 29th, 1900, in Whitbourne to parents John and Emily (?).

Edwin would enlist in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on the 14th, April 1917 and once he was declared medically fit for service, he was assigned Service No. 3597.

His official enlistment papers provide us the following information about Edwin. First his name changes from Edwin to Edward and back again of a number of official correspondence papers. He gives his occupation as lumberman, more than likely a cooper it seems. He reads and writes as indicated by his signature and if his official birth date is correct, he would have been just 17 when he enlisted but he gives his age as

19. Like many young men of the day, Edwin lied to enlist.

Some of the documentation in his service file shows that he left Newfoundland on the "Florize" on April 8th, 1914, to Halifax and then from there overseas to Great Britain. He finally joined the battalion on the 11th, of February 1918 in France. He saw action on the front lines in France and Belgium. The record notes specifically that he had been at the battles in Ypres and Passchendaele.

He spent time in hospital for minor hand wound and went to Winchester on the 9th of January 1919 to be sent home for demobilization. His discharge certificate No. 1560 shows a date of 18 April 1919.

He returned home and with his family moved to Bay Roberts, where he lived until his death in 1955.

Here is a copy of his obituary from the Daily News:

The Daily News
May 27, 1955

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Mercer - Passed peacefully away on **Tuesday, May 17th, Mr. Edwin G. Mercer**, aged 60 years, a resident of Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts.

Left to mourn their sad loss, are his widow, five sons, Eugene in Toronto, Tom with the R.C.A.F. in Quebec, John, David, Ray at Bay Roberts; five daughters, Lillian in Corner Brook, Carrie in Beverly, U.S., Doris in Cavendish, Ida and Patricia at home; one step-son, Robert Badcock, with the U.S.A.F. in Japan; two step-daughters, Vera and Phyllis in Beverly, U.S.; two brothers, John B. Mercer and Eugene Mercer, both residing at Bay Roberts.

The late Mr. Mercer was a veteran of the First World War who served in the Army. While not being very active of late, he was nevertheless, not feeling too well of late. The funeral took place on Thursday, May 19th, to the United Church and Cemetery, Bay Roberts, with the minister, Rev. J. S. H. Moran, B.A., officiating. In attendance were members of the Bay Roberts Branch Canadian Legion with a Guard of Honour, Firing Party, and bugler from the C.L.B. Deepest sympathy is extended to the bereaved family.