



Eugene Mercer
Royal Canadian Navy (RCN)
Service No. 429645823

Born: 12 Mar 1933

Died: 03 Aug 2023

Place of Birth: Shearstown, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: John and Pearl (nee Willaims) Mercer

The 1935 Newfoundland general census lists the Mercer family as living in Shearstown. John is 31 and working as a labourer on the farm. His wife Pearl is 24. They have a son Eugene age 2 years.

At the time of the next general census in 1945, things have changed. The Mercer's are still living in Shearstown, but wife Pearl passed in 1941 and John, now 42, is married to Susan 28. There are six (6) children of

record: Eugene 12, Arthur 9, Susie 7, John 4, Reginald 1, and Samuel, just several months old.

In all Eugene would have five (5) brothers and two (2) sisters.

Eugene spent the better part of twenty-two (22) years in the Royal Canadian Navy, enlisting on 20 October 1952 and retiring from active service on 05 August 1974.

Upon enlistment, Eugene was listed as being 5' 6" tall, of fair complexion with black hair and hazel eyes. He has an identifying scar on his left thumb.

His service record reads as follows:

1. 30 Oct 52 – 20 Nov 52: Chippawa
2. 21 Nov 52 – 05 Apr 53: Cornwallis
3. 06 Apr 52 – 08 Nov 53: Naden, Esquimalt, B. C. (Supply School)
4. 09 Nov 53 – 14 Dec 53: Naden OSAW1 (Ordinary Seaman)
5. 15 Dec 53 – 29 Jan 54: HMCS Stadacona ASAW1 (Able Seaman)
6. 30 Jan 54 – 28 Mar 54: HMCS Stadacona ABAW1
7. 29 Mar 54– 14 May 56: HMCS Donnacona
(HMCS Donnacona is a Royal Canadian Navy reserve division located in Montreal, Quebec. Dubbed a stone frigate, HMCS Donnacona is a land-based naval establishment for training and recruitment primarily of part-time sailors for Canada's naval reserve.)
8. 15 May 56 – 02 Sep 57: HMCS Assiniboine LSAW2 (Leading Seaman)
9. 03 Sep 57 – 14 Dec 58: Hochelaga LSAW2
10. 15 Dec 58 – 31 Aug 60: Cabot

11. 01 Sep 60 – 07 May 61: Cabot
P2AW2 (Petty Officer)
12. 08 May 61 – 28 May 61 : Stadacona
13. 29 May 61 – 26 Apr 62: Victoriaville
P2AW2
14. 27 Apr 62 – 10 Jun 62: HMS
Hochelaga P2AW2
15. 11 Jun 62 – 18 Aug 63: Victoriaville
16. 19 Aug 63 – 30 Nov 65: Niagara
17. 01 Dec 65 – 03 Sep 1966: CDLS(W)
P1AW3 Petty Officer 3rd Class
18. 04 Sept 66 – 30 Sep 66: Restigouche
19. 01 Oct 66 – 21 Jan 68: Restigouche
(Admin Clerk 831)
20. 22 Jan 68 – 31 Jan 68: CFB Halifax
(Warrant Officer)
21. 01 Feb 68 – 03 Nov 68: CFB
Halifax (Warrant Officer)
22. 04 Nov 68 – 31 Jan 74: Cabot
23. Aug 1974: Left Service as CPO
(Chief petty officer)
24. Awarded the CD Medal (Canadian
Decoration) for CAF service in
October 1964 and the Centennial
Medal in November 1967.



Eugene (3rd from the right)

In 1956, September 17 to be precise, Eugene married Alice Keenan on board the HMCS Assiniboine while at Halifax.



HMCS Assiniboine

Alice was born in Montreal, Quebec and it was when Eugene was stationed there that they met. They were married for 65 years and had two children, John Howard in 1957 and Leanne Dora in 1963. Alice passed in 2021.

Following his Naval service, Eugene returned to Newfoundland and made his home in Shearstown. There he became the postmaster for the town and worked at farming as well.

In 1975, he joined the Royal Canadian Legion at Bay Roberts and was a member of Branch 32 until his death, some 48 years in all. To say he spent a life in service is to state the obvious: 22 years in the Royal Canadian Navy, 48 years in the Royal Canadian Legion, there's 60 years right there and that does not include his service to his beloved Church, St. Mark's Anglican Church at Shearstown.

Eugene passed in August 2023 and is buried at St. Mark's Anglican Churchyard, Shearstown. He was 90 years old.