



### **Gordon Mercer**

Gordon Mercer was born in Bay Roberts on the 10th of February in 1944. He is one of five children born to Fanny and Rueben Mercer. Growing up, his family always lived in Bay Roberts and did not move around a lot.

For most of his life, he worked with the Newfoundland Telephone Company. On June 25th, in 1966, Gordon married Margaret Hewardine of St. John's. They continued to live in Bay Roberts together and had two daughters named Carolyn and Jennifer. A few of Gordon's family members also had connections with the forces and some even served in the first World War.

Gordon Mercer became a member of the Canadian Rangers in 1989. The Canadian Rangers are members of the Canadian Armed forces and were always equipped with their own military issued rifles, and rounds of ammunition. The Canadian Rangers are a militia unit, and they are part of the Canadian Army. During his time as a Ranger, he did a lot of training. He remembers travelling to many places across Newfoundland and Labrador for different courses. He spent time doing training and courses in Gander, Carbonear, New Perlican, Placentia, St. Mary's Bay, Bell Island, and many other places. They would usually leave on Fridays for training and spend the whole weekend away.

He remembers a weekend where the Canadian Rangers took part in an imitation battle alongside the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

He boarded a long-liner fishing boat called the "Scobie J" with a few other Rangers. They travelled with a local fisherman to a small island just off the coast of Placentia Bay. When they arrived, they had to use a map and a compass to find a route to the top of a

hill where a simulated battle would take place the next day. When members of the Regiment arrived, they were led up the route.

When they woke up the next day, they were met with gunfire and an imitation of a real battle took place with blanks in place of real bullets.

During his time training with the Canadian Rangers, he also trained to become a Range Safety Officer (RSO).

He really enjoyed training with the Canadian Rangers. His wife said that he would come home from work on Fridays and be very anxious and excited to leave for training.

He retired from the Rangers after a little over 5 years. He continued to work with the Newfoundland Telephone Company during and after his time in service until he retired from his job in 1995.

