



Harry Mercer
Royal Newfoundland Artillery
59th Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery
Regimental No. 971048
World War II

Born: 17 Jun 1922

Died: 17 Oct 1995

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Alexander and Alfreda Mercer

Since the service records of all World War II enlistees have not been released to the general public as of the writing of this biography, it is rather difficult to provide any amount of information about the time in service.

Harry was 13 years old as on the 1935 Newfoundland general census and is found on record as living in Bay Roberts with parents, Alexander age 40 and Alfreda age 37. He is the second oldest of six siblings. Brother George is 15, Harry 13, Katie 9, Chester 7, Florence 5, and Phyllis 2.

Interesting, older brother George also enlisted in service during the war. He served with Royal Navy and is best known in the Bay Roberts area as being a former Mayor of the town. George Mercer Drive, a road in Bay Roberts bears his name.

Harry served with distinction in the 59th Heavy Royal Artillery Regiment from July 1940 – Jan 1943.

Upon his return, he married Greta Marie Russell, a United States born lady who was born in 1925 in Boston, Massachusetts. Presumably, her family was there to find work, as was the case for a number of folks from the Bay Roberts area.

The couple settled in Bay Roberts. The 1945 census shows Harry at 22, Greta at 18 and they have one child, Beulah just a year old. Over the forty-five (45) years they were married, they would have a total of ten (10) children, three boys and seven girls.

Greta passed away in June 1989 at 63 and Harry in 1995 at 73. They are buried in the Grace United Church Cemetery at Coley's Point, Newfoundland.

Below are clippings from The Bay Roberts Guardian that mention Harry:

07 July 1940

Harry Mercer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alec Mercer, Bay Roberts West, has volunteered for service in the Royal Artillery. His brother George is now serving overseas in the Royal Navy.

02 January 1943

Gunner Harry Mercer of the Royal Artillery, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alec Mercer, Bay Roberts West, has been discharged as medically unfit for further active service. He arrived here last week and later went to St. John's to get his final discharge.

24 April 1943

**\$10.00 FOR BOYS DIS-
CHARGED GIFT OF COM-
FORTS COMMITTEE**

At a recent meeting of the Comforts Committee it was decided to present \$10.00 to each of the following men: Ted Trenchard, R.N., William Mercer, R.N., and Harry Mercer, R. A. These men have been honorably discharged from the services. The Secretary has presented the above amount to each of the boys with an accompanying letter.

The clipping below shows Harry and his brother, Thomas (George) together in 1941.

*From The Observer's Weekly
18 February 1941*

Brothers Serving Overseas



Seaman Thos. G. Mercer

Driver Harry Mercer

Sons of Mr. and Mrs. Alec. Mercer (of Thos.), Bay Roberts. They are following in the footsteps of their father who served in the great war of 1914-18 and who had a brother lost in H.M. S. Vicknor. Mrs. Mercer had a brother killed in that memorable July drive of the last war.