



Harry Mercer
305 Field Artillery Battalion
77th Infantry Division
Service No. 31090583
World War II

Born: 15 Feb 1913

Died: 11 Jan 1945

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland.

Parents: Bethlehem and Sophia (Norman) Mercer

According to the 1921 Newfoundland general census, Harry was ten (10) years old during the census taking. He was the second child of six. There was Isaac 11, Harry 10, Frank 8, Hayward 6, Percy 3 and Ellen, not a year old. Parents Bethlehem (Beth) and Sophie Blanche were 36 and 30 years old

respectively at the time. Mrs. Mercer is also living with them, she is 65.

On April 14, 1931, Harry arrived at Boston, Massachusetts on board a passenger ship, The Farnorth. At eighteen (18), Harry was going to Manchester-by-the-sea, Massachusetts to live with his aunt, Brenda Snow. According to ship notation, he intended to seek citizenship status and he did. The ship's log describes Harry as being 5' 8" tall, of medium complexion, weighing about 151 lbs, with dark brown hair and grey eyes.

The 1940 U.S. Federal census shows Harry at 27, now living with his cousin, William Crane in Manchester, Mass on Summer Street. He is listed as a naturalized citizen.

In October that same year, Harry received a draft card (copy attached below). He enlisted on the 14 of April 1942, giving his occupation as semiskilled chauffeur, taxi, bus driver. He is single.

Harry was assigned to the 305th Field Artillery Battalion of the 77th Infantry Division and sent to the Philippines.

U.S. Military Hospital admission files dated 11 Jan 1945 indicate that Harry had suffered battle causality termed type 2 injuries. He succumbed to his injuries on 11 Jan 1945.

Cpl. Harry Mercer was a highly decorated soldier having been awarded the Silver Star: the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. Officially, he is listed as killed in Action at Leyte, Philippines.

He is buried at Fort William McKinley American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines.



In 1942, the War Department officially designated the Purple Heart medal for those U.S. military members wounded or killed in combat.

This indicates their valor in the line of duty and honors their bravery.

The Purple Heart is ranked behind the Bronze Star and ahead of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal in order of precedence.



The Bronze Star is awarded by the military to service members who have displayed heroism and valor, excluding aerial flight.

Authorized in 1944 as a ground equivalent of the Air Medal, the Bronze Star can be presented for valor or meritorious service.



The Silver Star is the third-highest military combat decoration that can be awarded to a U.S. Armed Forces member for meritorious service and “gallantry in action against an opposing armed force” (DOD).

SERIAL NUMBER 398		1. NAME (PRINT) HARRY - MERCER		ORDER NUMBER 13F2
2. ADDRESS (PRINT) <i>Morse Court</i> 340 SUMMER ST., MANCHESTER, ESSEX, MASS. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>				
3. TELEPHONE MANCHESTER 991 <small>(Exchange) (Number)</small>		4. AGE IN YEARS 27 <small>DATE OF BIRTH (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)</small>		5. PLACE OF BIRTH BAY ROBERTS NEWFOUNDLAND <small>(Town or village) (State or country)</small>
6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.				
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS WILLIAM - CRANE <small>(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (Street) (Middle) (Last)</small>				8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON COUSIN
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 340 SUMMER ST., MANCHESTER, ESSEX, MASS. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>				
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME JOHN SILVA				
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS MORSE COURT, MANCHESTER, ESSEX, MASS. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>				

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ADDRESS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

REGISTRATION CARD
D. S. S. FORM 1

(Great)

Harry Mercer
(Employer's signature)

Corpl. Harry Mercer Killed In Action

Was Serving With U. S. Forces
In Phillipines

Mr. and Mrs. Beth. Mercer of Bay Roberts received the sad news on Wednesday that their son, Harry, had been killed in action with the American Army on Leyte, Phillipine Islands.

Harry left here 14 years ago and while working some years around Manchester, Mass., took a course in police work, etc. Three years ago he passed the necessary examination and was appointed to the Massachusetts State Police. In April 1943, he

joined the American Army and was selected by the authorities to be given a course in the operation of a certain type of gun. After passing this examination he was delegated to visit several states in the union to instruct others in its operation. In 1944 he went to the Pacific and after taking part in the liberation of Guam he was transferred to the Leyte campaign where he saw much hard fighting—especially jungle fighting—and had many narrow escapes from Jap snipers.

He was killed some time in January and so gave his life for the country of his adoption. He was 32 years of age, and besides his parents, leaves 5 brothers: Lloyd with the RCAF (civilian personnel) at Gander; Frank in the Ranger Force at Twillingate; Hayward in the Canadian Army overseas; Percy (recently reported wounded) with the 59th Regt. in Europe; Lewis with the Nfld. Railway; also five sisters: Helen (Mrs. Ron French), Bertha with the CWAC in Canada; Jean, Florence and Dolly at home.

The Guardian joins with their numerous friends in offering deepest sympathy to the bereaved.

**CORPL. HARRY MERCER
INSTANTLY KILLED**

**Recommended For Award of
Bronze Star**

The following communication was recently received by Mr. and Mrs. Beth Mercer, concerning their son, Harry, who was killed in the Phillipine Islands campaign while serving with the U.S. Army:

(Copy)

Dear Mrs. Mercer,—

By this time you have been informed of the death of your son Harry.

It is with greatest remorse that I write this note as Corpl. Mercer was the finest soldier it has been my privilege to work with, and so I thought that I should supplement the official notice with a note from one who has been with him through two campaigns—Guam and Leyte.

Harry was killed in action against the Japs in the vicinity of Villaba, Leyte, Phillipine Islands. He was killed instantly from a burst of machine gun fire.

Our entire organization deeply regrets the loss. I had recommended Harry for award of the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement during this operation—which award will be made.

He was to be promoted to the grade of Sergt. as he was acting chief of section at the time of his death.

Although it is small compensation for the loss of a son I wished you to know that your son Harry met death heroically in the service of his country.

With deepest regret.

I remain sincerely,

**Capt. Robert A. Liby,
305th F.A.B.A.,**

APO 77.

IN MEMORY OF
★★★★★
HARRY MERCER

RANK
CORPORAL, U.S. ARMY

UNIT
305TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, 77TH INFANTRY
DIVISION

DATE OF DEATH
JANUARY 11, 1945

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY AT
MANILA AMERICAN CEMETERY
TAGUIG CITY, PHILIPPINES



"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

- GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING
