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*Royal Artillery*

**Harry Mercer**  
**Royal Newfoundland Artillery**  
**59<sup>th</sup> 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 59<sup>th</sup> Heavy Royal Artillery Regiment from July 1940 – Feb 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.

**From Bay Roberts Guardian**  
**01 Feb 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.