



Heber Allen Mercer
Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)
Royal Navy
Service No. C/173320
World War II

Born: 28 Sep 1919

Died: 26 Apr 1995

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

Parents: Nathaniel & Sarah Ann (Brown)
Mercer. 2nd wife Charlotte (Norman) Mercer

The 1921 Newfoundland general census shows the Mercer family living in Shearstown. Heber is the youngest of seven (7) at the age of six years. The entries show that his father Nathaniel at age forty (40) is a

single parent with 7 children. He is listed as a widower; his first wife Sarah Ann (Brown) Mercer having died on 28 March 1920.

The next census in 1935 shows Nathaniel (Heber's dad) has remarried to Charlotte (Norman Bradbury) Mercer. Together they have three (3) more children and Charlotte brings a son, Edgar Badcock, and a daughter Jessie Badcock to the family. Heber is living at home and is now 18 years old.

By 1945, Nathaniel at 61 is again a widower and there is just one child living at home with him. There is no mention of Nathaniel in this census.

Although Heber's military service record is unavailable, there are some facts known:

1. Heber was a member of the First Naval Contingent to be sent overseas from Newfoundland. This contingent was comprised of 200 men, left St. John's on 27 November 1939 and arrived at Liverpool, England 15 December 1939.
2. Heber had enlisted in early to mid 1939 in the Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) and subsequently the Royal Navy of Great Britain. He was 20 at the time of service.
3. His service number C/173320, also provides some information. The "C" indicates that he was designated to Chatman, England as his home port division of the Royal Navy.
4. At time of enlistment, Heber is described at being 5' 6" tall, of medium complexion and having brown hair with blue eyes.

On 07 October 1943, Heber is a passenger of the Fort Amherst troop transport arriving at New York by way of St. John, New Brunswick bound for the U.K.



"Fort Amherst" 1940

20 September 1944 finds Heber once again on a transport ship (Fort Townshend). According to the ship's passenger list, he is a British Royal Navy seaman, aged 24, married with a child, John Nathaniel. Residence given is Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. His wife is Ruth (Holmes) Mercer

In May of 1948, Heber applied for and was granted a U.S. naturalization card. He is now 28 years old.

Heber died on 26 April 1995 at the age of 75. He was living in Sanford, Maine at the time. His final resting place is unknown at the present time following extensive research.