



**Herbert Mercer  
Canadian Engineers  
Canadian Expeditionary Force  
Regimental No. 2013501  
World War I**

**Born:** 05 March 1894

**Place of Birth:** Coley's Point, Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

**Parents:** Thomas and Sarah Jane Mercer

Thomas enlisted in the Canadian Army on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1918, he was 24 at that time and was living in Portland, Maine (USA). His enlistment documents describe Thomas as being 5'7", of dark complexion, with brown hair, blue eyes, 154 lbs, single and Methodist. His enlistment documents also show that Thomas was a telegrapher by trade or calling.

Thomas' service record as a member of the Canadian Engineers contains the following entries:

- 1) He had four (4) weeks training in:
  - a) Musketry
  - b) Drill
  - c) Bombing
  - d) Bayonet training
2. Assigned to the CE (Canadian Engineers) as a "sapper"
3. 17- Feb -1918: arrived in Halifax, N.S. aboard the Princess Juliana
4. 15 – Aug - 1918: Arrived England of the S/S Pannonia
5. 09-Sep -1918: TOS (taken on strength) from Canada
6. 09 - Oct -1918: TOS from the 2<sup>nd</sup> CERB (Canadian Engineers Reserve Battalion)
7. 19 – Jan -1919: SOS (struck off strength) to Kimmel Park (North Wales)
8. 11-Feb-1919: Returned to Canada.
9. 10 – May- 1919: Discharged at Halifax

Somewhere along the way, Thomas was promoted to L/Cpl (Lance Corporal), date unknown.

Following the end of the war and his discharge, Thomas is extremely difficult to locate. He had appeared in the 1911 Newfoundland census prior to the war at age 19 having been born in Feb 1892 (this record seems to be in error according to other information found). He was then living at home in Black Duck Pond, Port-de-Grave.

Following extensive research and no official record of Herbert found in Newfoundland, a burial site in Winnipeg provides evidence of the potential resting place for Thomas and his wife Mary.

Thomas was a telegrapher by occupation and the Hudson Bay Company based in Winnipeg was actively recruiting telegraph

operators following the end of the war, the assumption is that he went there for work, was married, and is buried there.

Both Thomas and Mary died in 1961 and are buried in the Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery (also known as the Assiniboine Memorial Park Cemetery).