



**Herman George Mercer**

**Royal Newfoundland Regiment**

**Regimental No. 1698**

**World War II**

**Born:** 26 Oct 1926

**Died:** 18 Jun 2002

**Place of Birth:** Country Road, Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

**Parents:** William and Julia Patience Mercer

Herman appears as an eight-year-old in the 1935 census documents. He has a younger sister, Aletha. His mom and dad (Julia and William) are 32 and 39, respectively. They make their home at Coley's Point in Bay Roberts.

At the time of the next general census enumeration, things had changed in the Mercer household. Herman's mom, Julia, has died and his father has remarried. William is fifty and new wife, Jessalyn (nee

Samways) is considerably younger at just twenty-seven. The family now consists of Herman 19, Aletha 17, Elizabeth 6, and J.D. at 2.

In the interim, Herman enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and since he was rather young, the time may have been in mid-1944. This theory is supported by the enlistment of George Snow in July 1944, whose service number is just one digit different than Herman's (#'s 1699 and 1698 respectively) Since the two grew up relatively close to each other, the assumption that they were friends, enlisted together and then trained for the RA (Royal Artillery) together is quite plausible.

In any event, following the war, Herman married G. Phyllis Abbott of Musgrave Harbour, Newfoundland. They were married on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1955, in Toronto. The following year (1956) Phyllis gave birth to Randy, their only child of record.

In subsequent years, the Mercer family moved back to Newfoundland and settled in Musgrave Harbour, Phyllis' hometown. It is here in 2002 that Herman passes away and is buried in the United Church Cemetery there. Phyllis would follow a year later.

Below is a newspaper clipping from the Guardian September 1944. Herman is mentioned in this clip.

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## **TWO MORE YOUNG MEN JOIN THE COLORS**

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George E. Snow of Coley's Point and Herman Mercer of Country Road, recent volunteers for the Royal Artillery, spent last week-end at home. George and Herman have completed one month's training and have to continue training for and additional four weeks. They will get ten days leave at home and will then proceed overseas with the next draft.

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