

*No Picture
Available*



**John Charles Mercer
10th Canadian Mounted Rifles
Canadian Expeditionary Force
Regimental No. 115077
World War I**

Born: 22 Oct 1889 (according to vital statistics or 1891 (according to enlistment papers).

Died: 10 Nov 1959

Place of Birth: Shearstown, Newfoundland

Parents: Ananias and Joanna Mercer

John was living and working in the town of Grenfell, Saskatchewan when he enlisted on May 4th, 1915.

According to his enlistment papers, John stood 5' 9" tall, weighed 160 lbs, had brown hair and blue eyes. He was single, gave his calling as sailor and had five (5) years

previous military experience with the Royal Naval Reserve.

John was assigned to the 10th Canadian Mounted Rifles of the CRCR (Canadian Reserve Cavalry Regiment) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. From experience as a sailor to the Mounted Rifles was quite a change for sure but John seemed to have made the transition with ease. He would spend the next four (4) years in service and saw action in England, France and Belgium.

The following are some excerpts from John's official record, that are listed by date, activity/event for ease of use:

1. 04 – 05 – 1915: Enlisted
2. Date not given: Embarked Canada & disembarked Liverpool
3. 04 – 07 – 15: TOS (taken on strength) CCD (Cavalry Command Depot)
4. 06 – 07 – 16: To FGHR (Fort Gary Horse Reserve Regiment)
5. 07 – 03 – 17: SOS (struck off strength) to the Canadian Reserve Cavalry Regiment.
6. 25 – 04 – 17: Proceeded overseas to Canadian Light Horse Unit in France
7. 24 – 05 – 17: Transferred to Canadian base depot
8. 26 – 09 – 17: Admitted to #12 Ambulance Hospital with gsw (gunshot wound) to face and right side
9. 14 – 10- 17: Rejoined unit
10. 18 – 12 – 18: Wounded
11. 24 – 12 – 18: To England
12. 01 – 01 – 19: Invalided and posted to CCRD (Canadian Cavalry Reserve Depot) Borden
13. 22 – 06 – 19 Sailed from England on the SS Royal George



SS Heliopolis was a Clyde-built British passenger ship. She was subsequently renamed in 1910 SS Royal George, and served as a troop ship for the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War.

14. 26 – 06 – 19: Discharged

Following his discharge from the CEF, John becomes difficult to locate, although his last known address was General Delivery, Grenfell, Saskatchewan.

The 1940 United States Federal census may hold an answer but even in this scenario there are complications as there appears not one but two John Mercer's that may provide an answer as to where he went. The two Johns in question both have an equal opportunity as to the John in question as one was born in 1889 in Newfoundland as per his birth record according to Newfoundland vital statistics, while the other although noted as being from Canada has the birth date of 1891 as per the military record for John. The designation of "Canada" may very well be because he was living in Saskatchewan.

Which one, if either, is correct is not known since no burial site could be found for either one. In any event here are the possible scenarios:

1. John Mercer born 1889 is living in New Haven, Connecticut in 1940. He is working as a "turner operator" (a lathe operator) and is married to a lady by the name of Ethel. They have four (4) children: Janette, John, Isabel and William. William is the only U.S. born child.
2. John Mercer #2, born in 1891 in Newfoundland, is working and living in Everett, Massachusetts as a carpenter and is also married to wife Julia, from Newfoundland

For now, it is just a best guess scenario that will only be solved when/if more conclusive evidence comes to light. The biography will then be re-written as per the new information.