

*No Picture
Available*



John Harris Mercer

Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)

Royal Navy

Service No. LT/JX 195265

World War II

Born: 08 October 1921

Died: 02 November 1940

Place of Birth: Beachy Cove, Bay Roberts,
Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: John Hayward and Fanny Violet
Mercer

John enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve of
Newfoundland as soon as he was of age to
do so at eighteen (18).

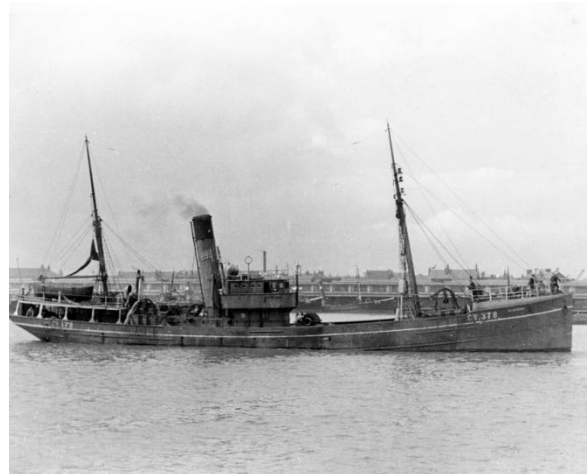
He came from a family of four (4) children
according to the 1935 Newfoundland

census. He had two (2) sisters and one
brother, but he was the oldest.

John embarked St. John's, Newfoundland
with the men of the 6th naval contingent on
April 26, 1940. Just six (6) months later he
would be lost with the sinking of the HMT
Rinovia.

Built as the BLAKKUR (GY378) for
Rinovia Steam Fishing, Grimsby, by Cook,
Welton & Gemmell, Beverley; Yard No 566;
Launched 27/08/1937; In 1938 vessel
renamed RINOVIA; On 10th December
1938, the trawler ran aground in the
Orkneys, becoming stranded on the island of
Rusholme in the Westray Firth. All the crew
were rescued; On 31/08/1939 the vessel was
requisitioned by the Royal navy as a
minesweeper; In September 1940 vessel
grounded at Dartmouth and re-floated.

On 02/11/1940 the H.M.T. RINOVIA sunk
by mine off Falmouth Bay, 2.9 miles off St.
Anthony Light. 14 Men were lost that day,
Ordinary Seaman, John Harris Mercer was
one of them. He had just turned 19 years old.



HMT Rinovia

John is commemorated on the Lowestoft
Naval Memorial, panel 4 column 2 in the
United Kingdom. He is also commemorated

on page 181 of the Newfoundland Book of Remembrance in Ottawa.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

Bay Roberts Guardian 01 Jan

1941

Memorial Service For Men Who Paid Supreme Sacrifice

A Memorial Service for three young men of Bay Roberts,—Harris Mercer, Sutherland Snow and Roy McLeod—who laid down their lives in the present war, will be held in Central United Church on Sunday, Jan. 12th, at 2.45 p.m. and will be conducted by Rev. J. L. Reynolds, M.A.

As Sutherland Snow was a member of Victoria L.O.L. No. 3, and Harris Mercer a member of Victoria Band, the Orange Association will attend this service in a body. Brethren from other neighbouring lodges are also invited to attend.

It is also expected that representatives of the G.W.V.A., and the Nfld. Patriotic Assn., will also be present.

Order of Service

The order of Service at Central Church, which will include the favourite hymns of the three young men, is as follows:

Organ Prelude.

Choir: Anthem.

Hymn: 541—"At even when the sun was set."

Prayer.

Choir: Anthem — "The Old Rugged Cross."

Scripture.

Hymn: 497—"O Safe is the Rock".

Sermon—Rev. J. L. Reynolds.

Hymn: 525—"O valiant hearts."

Benediction.

National Anthem.

1940
STOKER

NEWTON J.
NICHOLSON J.
O'BRIEN T.
PAGET F. G.
PATERSON J.
PEARSON I. A.
PECK R.
PENISTONE H.
PLUMMER G. W.
PRYCE S. N.
REID G.
RITCHIE G. A.
SAVAGE J. D.
SLEEMAN J. P.
STOCKS J. B.
SWANN J.
TAYLOR R.
TAYLOR W.
TICKNER J. H. G.
WAINWRIGHT J. H.
WALKER A.
WALTERS W.
WARD G. C.
WATSON A.
WEBSTER P. J. T.
WHITESIDE T. E.
WILLSON F.
WORLEDGE C. W. J.
WRIGHT G. F.

STOKER 2ND CLASS

ASHTON R. G.
BAIRD J.
CARTWRIGHT W. C. M.
DONOVAN J.
DRAYTON W. F. A.
EMMETT H.
GEORGE W.
HALE A. J.
HARDMAN J. A.
HURNE F. H.
JINWOOD A.
JENKINSON H.
LINTON T.
MCQUILLAN J.
MARSHALL W. D.
MURRAY G. G. G.
NEEDHAM J.
NEWBY E. M.
OLSEN J.
PARKER A. D.
PEARCE J. W. T.
READY B. A.
SANKEY J. E.

1940
STOKER 2ND CLASS

SCHULFY J. J.
SMITH J.
SMIRTHWAITE J.
TIPPING A.
WAITE P.

COOK

ACTON H.
ACTON P. H.
ADAMSON E.
BREWER J. R. G.
BROWN B. F.
CHIDWORTH S.
EADE H. L.
FORD A. B.
HILLIERS C.
KELLY E.
POLLARD C. C. M.
POBRIETT J.
RANDLE P. R.
REID J. A.
RUSHMORE F. W.
SADLER R. C.
SWANN T. A.
STIKES S. J.
VENTRY V.
WATT C.
WEIR P.

STEWARD

ASHBY E. W.
BAILEY A. C.
BOND H. A.
COOK W. J.
DENNANT A. G.
EKE G. W.
FARROW S.
MEWSE J. W. C.
MONTAGUE C. N.
NOBLE J.
POTTER J. E.
RIX A. E.
SHARPIN B.
SHILLINGS E. G.
SKEDGE R. A.
WEEDON G. A.

OF NEWFOUNDLAND
ORDINARY SEAMAN

LEWIS J.
MERCER J. H.

1941
CAPTAIN

BLOMFIELD M. A. G. B. E.

COMMANDER

NOEL M. W.

LIEUTENANT

BROWNE J. G.
CHISHOLM V. B.
CLINE L. H.
HINDLAY H. S.
HARDINGE-EATON P. A. H.
MERICK E. S.
MERFIELD G. J. E.
NEATE J. S.
PEGG E. E.
PYLLE E. G.
WILLIAMS G. H.
WILSON I. A. D.

SUB LIEUTENANT

BEARD P. G.
FRENCH F. E. D. & C.
MADDERS R. G.
NICKLIN H. J.
OATES C. E.
OWENS D. H.
SMITH G.
SWINDELLS G. S.
WEDDERBURN-OGILVY D. S.
WHITEHEAD C. S.

MIDSHIPMAN

BLOXHAM J. I.

LIEUTENANT (E)

MCDONNELL G. A.

SUB LIEUTENANT (E)

ARMSTRONG J. I.

CHIEF SKIPPER

GALE G. R.
SETTERFIELD W. R.

SKIPPER

ALEXANDER R. H.
ALLEN W. T.
BALL G. F.
CHARLTON W. T. M.
COULL W. T.
CUTTER J. C.
JACKSON P. D.
JARVIS H. H.
JOHNSON A. E.