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**John Hayward Mercer
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 5902**

Born: 14 February 1893

Died: 16 February 1973

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts

Parents: Levi and Elizabeth Mercer

John enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on August 3rd, 1918, and according to the information contained in these papers, John is:

- a) 25 years old
- b) A sailor
- c) A Methodist
- d) Is 5 feet 7 inches tall
- e) Has dark brown hair, blue eyes and is of fair complexion

His service record, which covers about a year began with his enlistment on August 3rd, 1918, and ended on August 4th, 1919. His record reads:

1. Embarked St. John's by train to Halifax, Nova Scotia on the 22nd of September 1918
2. Embarked for overseas on 23rd of September 1918
3. To Newfoundland for demobilization 24th of June 1919
4. Arrived Newfoundland the 1st of July 1919
5. Demobilized on the 4th of August 1919

In 1921, John is living at home with his parents but has a wife, Fannie Violet (nee Snow), whom he married at St. John's on May 3rd, 1921. She is 21 years old.

In 1934, there is a letter in John's file that shows he was in Ossining, New York, where he wished to join the American Legion. Ossining is a village in Westchester County, New York, United States. It is known as the home of the Sing Sing Correctional Facility, one of the most well-known prisons in New York State.

1935 shows John and Fannie with a family of four (4) children: John 18, Gertrude 9, David 5, and Isabelle L. five (5) months old. John is working as a fisherman.

John and Fannie's oldest son John Harris sacrificed his life for his King and Country on the H.M.T. Rinovia, Royal Naval Patrol Service on 02 November 1940 at the age of 19 years.

The 1945 census shows John (52) and Fannie (45) living in Bay Roberts and they have three (3) children, Gertrude, David, and

Isabella, at home with them. John is now working as a labourer/carpenter.

Fannie died in 1971, and John passed in 1973. They are buried in the Central United Church Cemetery at Bay Roberts.