



John J. Mercer

Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit

NOFU Service No. 2099

Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve

Service No. 277307

World War II

Born: 08 Oct 1914

Died: 22 May 1977 (age 62)

Place of Birth: Shearstown, Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland.

Parents: James Henry and Elizabeth (nee Bailey) Mercer

John was the first child born to James and Elizabeth in 1914, followed by Jane and Raymond.

The 1921 Newfoundland general census lists the Mercer family as living in Shearstown,

James is 48 while his wife Elizabeth is significantly younger at 34. They have three children, John aged 6, Janes age 5 and Raymond just 2.

At the time of the next census in 1935, James is now 62, Elizabeth is 47, John and Ray are 21 and 17 respectively and both are working as labourers. There is no notation for Jane who would be 20 by this time. It is presumed that she is married.

John enlisted in the Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit (NOFU) in 1940 or thereabouts. This is an assumption since he is part of the 15th Naval contingent that arrived in the United Kingdom on May 21st, 1941.

This is speculation since no official record documentation is currently available to the general public for World War II veterans. What is known is that John was part of both the NOFU and the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve. Which service occurred first is questionable but the NOFU and then the NRNR seem appropriate.

On March 18th, 1944, John married Penelope Duncan at West Calder, Scotland. Interestingly, there was a naval base near West Calder called HMS Rosneath. This is possibly where they met.

The couple had three (3) children. Brenda was born in 1952, Elizabeth in 1954 and James. All were born in Newfoundland.

Since there is no record of Mercer's in the 1945 general census, it is safe to assume that they lived in Scotland for a while following marriage and moved to Newfoundland in the late 1940' or early 1950's.

John passed away in May 1977 and is buried at St. Mark's Anglican Church Cemetery at Shearstown.