



**John Langley Mosdell DCM**  
**Canadian Engineers of the**  
**Canadian Expeditionary Force**  
**Regimental No. 505993**  
**World War I**

**Born:** 03 November 1895

**Place of Birth:** Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

**Parents:** Noah and Catherine Mosdell

The Mosdell's were former residents of Bay Roberts but in 1916 they were living and working in New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada.

This was the address John gave as his residence when he enlisted in the Canadian Engineers on 12 September 1916; he was twenty-one (21) then. John would have eight (8) siblings, John being the eldest.

His enlistment documents paint a picture of a young man of ruddy complexion, with

brown hair, hazel eyes, weighing 165 lbs and standing 5 ft. 9 inches tall. He gave his trade as ship builder and his faith as Church of England. His medical examination found him to be good health and fit for service. One identifying mark was a scar on the base of his left thumb.

Some of the entries in John's service record are:

1. 21 – 12 – 1916: Arrived England
2. 29 – 12 – 16: TOS (taken on strength)
3. 30 – 07 – 1917: SOS (struck off strength) to Canadian Engineers Pool, France
4. 07 – 09 – 17: SOS to 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Company
5. 14 – 03 – 1918: Wounded SW (Shrapnel wound) to the left knee
6. 15 – 04 – 18: Invalided to England
7. 09 – 07 – 18: On command to 2<sup>nd</sup> CERB( Canadian Engineers Reserve Battalion)
8. 26 – 12 – 18: To be returned to Canada
9. 10 – 02 – 1919: To Canada (MD11)
10. 18 – 02 – 19: Demobilized at Vancouver.

Found in John's service record items is the following card, indicated (in red) that he had been awarded the DCM (Distinguished Conduct Medal)

8K  
P  
Number 505993 Rank  
Surname MOSDELL D.C.M.  
Christian Name John Langley  
Units C.E. Theatre of War France  
Date of Service 29-7-17  
Remarks 19 Feb 1918  
Latest Address Essex Ave  
New Westminster B.C.  
Roll No. B Page 6220, B.C.

The explanation for being awarded the DCM is found published in the London Gazette (page 7564 as noted below.

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 26 JUNE, 191&**

*"505993 Spr. J. L. Mosdell, Engrs. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great skill and coolness in handling mobile, charges under heavy fire during a raid on the enemy's lines. He used his charges with splendid effect and did a large amount of damage to enemy dug outs. During the*

*withdrawal from the enemy's lines, he assisted in carrying in a badly wounded man."*

Following his discharge from the CEF, John went returned to his civilian life. He married Della Marie Gibbons, and they had three (3) children, Jack, Barbara and Heather.

John passed away in July 1966 after being hospitalized at the Veterans Hospital, Victoria, B.C. He is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery, Field of Honour, Port Alberni, British Columbia.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

To Copy for H.O. file.  
Attention of

P.A. OTTAWA 4, ONTARIO.  
Date JULY 11, 1966.

NAME MOSDELL John Langley. SERVICE 505993 (CEF.) C.P.C. No. 188641 NAVY  
NUMBER W.V.A. No. 234195 ARMY  
R.C.A.F.

The DEPARTMENT has received information from  
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, REGISTRATION OF DEATH:  
(State authority and source of information of death)

regarding the death of the above mentioned veteran.

Particulars are as follows:

Date of Death..... JULY 4, 1966.....  
Cause of Death.....  
Place of Death..... VETERANS' HOSPITAL VICTORIA B.C.

Name and Address of next of kin (if known).....

Copies to: W.S.R. }  
V. L. } Destroy form if advice of death already received.  
~~DEPT~~ }  
~~DEPT~~ }  
H.O. }

E.C. Richards  
for  
Chief, Central Registry

DVA 24