



Maxwell James Mercer
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Service No. 1446
World War I

Born: 19 Feb 1896

Died: Saturday 01 July 1916

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

Parents: Isaac and Anastasia Mercer

Maxwell enlisted in the 1st Newfoundland Regiment on April 19th, 1915; he was nineteen (19) at the time. As with most enlistment document, a picture of Maxwell is painted by the information found in it. Maxwell stood 5' 9", weighed 127 lbs, was of fair complexion with light brown hair and blue eyes. He had a series of distinguishing

scars: one below the right eye and one on the back of each hand. He was of the Methodist faith and a telegraph operator by trade.

His official service record reads:

1. 20 – Apr – 1916: Pronounced “fit” for active service
2. 28 – Apr – 16: Embarked Southampton
3. 30 – Apr – 16: Disembarked Rouen (France)
4. 01 – July – 1916: KIA (killed in action) at Beaumont-Hamel.

As Maxwell was never found and he has no final resting place, he is memorialized by name on the Newfoundland Beaumont-Hamel Plaque at the site of the infamous battle of July 1st, 1916. Maxwell was just twenty (20) when he paid the supreme sacrifice.

On June 12, 1920, Maxwell’s father, Isaac penned a letter to the Chief of Staff of the Regiment at St. John’s acknowledging receipt of the Memorial Scroll and accompanying message from the King, thanking him for items sent in honour of his son.

Attached below are two pages from Maxwell’s Service Record.:

- A. The first page is a copy of the telegram sent to the local area minister Rev. Bennett asking him to inform Isaac and Anastasia of their son’s death.
- B. Page two is a handwritten copy of Maxwell’s will naming his mother as the beneficiary of all he owned in the event of his death.

Counter No. _____

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All Messages Sent are Subject to the Following Conditions:

The Management may decline to forward the Message, though it has been received for transmission; but in case of so doing shall refund to the Sender the amount paid for its transmission.

In case the message shall never reach its destination by reason of any neglect or default of the N. P. T. or its Servants whilst the Message remains under its control of the N. P. T., they will refund the amount paid by the Sender for such Message.

The N. P. T. shall not be liable to make compensation beyond the amount refunded as above for any loss, injury, or damage arising or resulting from the non-transmission or non-delivery of the Message, or delay or error in the transmission or delivery thereof, howsoever such transmission, non-delivery, delay, or error shall have occurred.

The control of the N. P. T. over the Message shall be deemed to have entirely ceased for the purposes of these Conditions at any point where, in the course of the transit of the Message to its destination, it may be entrusted by the N. P. T. (and the N. P. T. shall have full power so to entrust the Message) or further transmission by or through any system, service, or line of Telegraph belonging to or worked by any administration or authority not controlled by the N. P. T. exclusively, although worked as part of or in connection with the Telegraphic system or service of the N. P. T.

I request that the following Telegram may be forwarded according to the foregoing Conditions, by which I agree to abide.

(NOT TRANSMITTED)

Signature of Sender _____ Address _____

Line Number	Rcd	By	Sent by	Check

Dated July 26, 1916.

To Rev. Sydney Bennett,
Bay Roberts.

Regret to inform you No. 1446, Private Maxwell J. Mercer, son of Mr. Isaac Mercer of Samuel, Bay Roberts, has been reported killed in action. July first. Kindly inform relatives.

J.R. BENNETT
Colonial Secretary.

FOR TYPEWRITER

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WILL.

In the event of my
death I give all of
my wage to my
mother Mrs Isaac Mercer

Bay Roberts
Newfoundland

Maxwell Mercer

Private No 1446

2/1 H.F.L.D Regt

March 29th 1916

[Witnesses]

D. Leary

T. J. Gough