



**Robert James Mercer
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Service No. 4360**

Robert was born to parents William and Mary Mercer of Bay Roberts on February 23rd, 1899.

It was early 1918 when Robert enlisted, in fact it was March 9th, 1918, according to his enlistment documents. We learn from these papers the following about Robert:

- He was 19 years old
- He stood 5' 5" tall
- Weighted 115 lbs
- Single

His Official Service Record shows that following enlistment, Robert "embarked St. John's via train to Halifax (11 – 6—1918). He remained in Halifax until March 19, 1919, when he was sent back to Newfoundland for demobilization. He arrived back in St. John's on March 25th,

1919. There is also a notation stating "No active service"

Interestingly, like the majority of WW1 volunteers, Robert made allowance for some of his pay to go to his family. According to certificate 4284 of the First Newfoundland Regiment, Mrs. Mary Mercer (Robert's Mom) of Bay Roberts was allocated 60 cents per diem of Roberts pay.

After the war ended, Robert returned home to Bay Roberts, the 1921 census finding him, now 22 living with his parents.

The next census in 1935 shows Robert with a wife (Rebecca Fannie), six children and caring for his widowed mother and cousin in their home at Bay Roberts.

A move to St. Johns according to the 1945 census for St. Johns East (ward 3) has Robert and Rebecca still with six children and a boarder from Bay Roberts in the same household.

Robert passed away at the General Hospital, St. Johns on November 1, 1966. His death certificate (# 3495) still listing his place of residence as Cable Avenue, Bay Roberts.

He is buried at St. Matthews Anglican (New) Cemetery, Bay Roberts.