



Miss Sadie Russell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Russell, Bay Roberts East. She enlisted in the Canadian Women's Army Corps in Canada in 1942, and is now in the Ordnance R.C.O.C. and is posted at Halifax.

Sarah Patricia "Sadie" Russell White
Canadian Women's Army Corps
World War II

Born: 15 Aug 1921

Died: 12 Aug 1987

Place of Birth: "Cranes Brook", Bay Roberts East, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Cyril and Priscilla (nee Parsons) Russell

Sadie was the middle child of five born to Cyril and Priscillia Russell of Bay Roberts East, Newfoundland.

Although born in 1921, Sadie does not appear in the 1921 Newfoundland general census, having been born following the enumeration process.

The official documentation of the 1935 census shows the Russell family living in Bay Roberts East (Cranes Brook). Cyril is 50, wife Priscillia is 42 and children Cecil 21, Willis 16, Sadie 13, Margaret 11, and Dorcas 9 respectively.

By 1942, Sadie has enlisted in the war effort as a CWAC or a member of the Canadian Women's Army Corps and was then posted to Halifax, Nova Scotia to the RCOC or Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps.



This is the insignia worn by the CWAC's



The CWAC was formed in August 1941 with its main function fill support roles within the Canadian Army. Initially it was not formally part of the army but that changed in May of 1942 when the unit was integrated into the army. At first, the CWAC was restricted to support roles in Canada, but 1943 three companies were posted at London, with additional ones at Aldershot, England, followed by companies posted in Rome, Italy and Almost & Brussels, Belgium. The CWAC was officially disbanded in September 1946.

Sadie had been posted to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the RCOC. It is here she met her future husband, Robert Sydney White. He too had been posted to the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps.

They were married at Halifax on June 14th, 1948, and together had three children, two girls and a boy.

Robert was a career military man and served with the Second Canadian Division from January 1943 to July 1946. He subsequently served in the Canadian Militia and retired with the rank of Major.

Sadie passed away in August 1987 at the Halifax Infirmary at Halifax at the age of 65. Robert died at home in 1995. They are buried in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, at Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia.