



William Mercer
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 2490

William was born in Country Road, Bay Roberts on April 6th, 1893 to parents Henry and Isabella Mercer.

In April 1916, he went to St. John's and enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. William was 23 or so he said but the actual document lists him as having the apparent age of 19.

From his enlistment documents, some information about William is made available. He was a fisherman by occupation, Church of England, enlisted for the duration of the war and physically was 5' 7" tall.

Williams' service record shows a soldier who was wounded on two separate occasions and exposed to poisonous gas. Here's a look at his service record as it is recorded:

- a) William enlisted on April 11, 1916
- b) Embarked Newfoundland on the S.S Sicilian for the UK on 19 July 1916
- c) Embarked for the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) on 11 October 1916
- d) Admitted to hospital Rouen with dysentery 27 December 1916
- e) Invalided to England 5 January 1917
- f) Admitted to hospital Southampton 6 January 1917
- g) Discharged hospital 24 March 1917
- h) Embarked for BEF 5 August 1917
- i) Disembarked at Rouen (France) 7 August 1917
- j) Transferred to England 12 August 1917
- k) Embarked for BEF 25 July 1918
- l) Joined battalion in the field 31 July 1918
- m) Wounded 25 July 1918
- n) Admitted to hospital Boulogne 20 October 1918
- o) Joined unit in the field 14 January 1919
- p) Transferred to UK 16 April 1919
- q) Arrived Winchester 19 April 1919
- r) To Newfoundland for demobilization 22 May 1919
- s) Arrived Newfoundland 1 June 1919
- t) Demobilized 4 July 1919.

There is a notation that in one of his hospitalizations that he complained of "choking in the larynx and considerable coughing from gas poisoning"

1921 finds William living at home with his parents, Henry and Isabella.

The 1935 census shows William now has a wife, Julie, and two children, Herman and Aletha.

By 1945, William who is now 52 and wife Jessalene have 3 girls and a boy.

William died on July 17th, 1979 at the age of 86 and is buried in St. John the Evangelist Anglican Cemetery in Coley's Point.



WW I Medals Awarded to Pte William Mercer (on display at Branch 32).