

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

ATTESTATION OF

No. **5435**

Name **Jasper Mercer** ~~can~~ **West**

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. What is your name? | 1. Jasper Mercer |
| 2. What is your full Address? | 2. Port Albert, West |
| 3. Are you a British Subject? | 3. Yes |
| 4. What is your age? | 4. 33 Years 5 Months |
| 5. What is your Trade or Calling? | 5. Fireman |
| 6. Are you Married? | 6. No |
| 7. Have you ever served in any Branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so,* which? | 7. No |
| 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? | 8. Yes |
| 9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? | 9. Yes |
| 10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? | 10. Name
Corps |
| 11. Are you willing to serve upon the conditions as embodied in the roll of service to be signed by you if you are accepted? | 11. Yes |

I, **Jasper Mercer** do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Jasper Mercer SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
J. Mercer Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, **Jasper Mercer** do make oath, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity against all enemies, according to the conditions of my service.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly registered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at **Port Albert** on this **15th** day of **March** 191**8**.

Signature of Attesting Officer

C. S. Dick Lieut.

†CERTIFICATE OF APPROVING OFFICER.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the **1st** **Regiment**.

If enlisted by special authority, such will be attached to the original attestation.

Date.....191**8**

Place.....

} Approving Officer.

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.

‡ Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

* If so, Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him conspicuously endorsed in red ink, as follows, viz:—(Name).....re-enlisted in the (Regiment).....on the (Date).....

C.R. 5435

Extract from Daily Orders part 11, from Unit The Royal
Nfld. Regt. St. John's, dated May 27th, 1918.

#5435 Pte. J. Mercer

Attested for General Service with the Royal Nfld. Regt.
from 24.5.18

To be used only for Special Reserve Recruits, and for Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

MEDICAL HISTORY

Surname Mercer OF Christian Name Joseph

Table I.—GENERAL TABLE.

Birthplace:—Parish St Albert Ince County Wya.

	SPECIAL RESERVE		REGULAR ARMY	
	on	day of	on	day of
Examined	<u>26th</u>	<u>May</u>		
Declared Age	<u>23</u>	years		
Trade or Occupation	<u>fisherman</u>			
Height	<u>5</u>	feet		
Weight	<u>152</u>	lbs.		
Chest Measurement	<u>38 1/2</u>			
	<u>1 1/2</u>			

Vaccination Marks	Right	Left	Right	Left
	Number	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	

When Vaccinated				
Vision	<u>R.E.—V — 6/6</u>	<u>L.E.—V — 6/6</u>		

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection

Approved by (Signature) Liam Patterson
 (Rank) Major Medical Officer.

Enlisted at St Albans on 24th day of May 1915

Corps	Regtl. No.	Corps	Regtl. No.
<u>Royal Wya. Regiment</u>	<u>5435</u>		

Became non-effective by (Signature) on day of 191 (Rank)

Table II.—Only for admission to hospital or to the sick

Name of Hospital	Admitted to Hospital			Discharged from Hospital			Disease	Number Days in Hospital	Remarks bearing syphilis, admission of treatment
	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year			
St. Wahn's, General.	26	7	18	17	8	18	Acute Phthisis.	22.	

Medical Examination Held at Headquarters

1. Name Joseph Mueen Age (a) Declared 23
(b) Apparent
2. Do you know of anything wrong with you? Double with right side
What severe illnesses have you had? Dysphoria fever 1 year ago

3. Height 5'11" 1435 Weight 152
4. Eyesight (a) Left 4/6 (b) Right 6/6
5. Physical Defects (Examine after strenuous exercise) 77

6. Examination of Lungs 7
Measurement (a) Expiration 34 (b) Inspiration 38 1/2

7. Examination of Heart 7

8. Examination of Urine

9. Examination of Mouth—(Defective Speech)

Teeth
Throat
Nose
Ears—(Otorrhea)
(Deafness)

10. Have you been successfully vaccinated, and when? no

11. Name and address of next of kin Father William Port Albert
Dwelling etc. Bial

REMARKS--

A II

Arthur H. Cornell

5435

Extract from Daily Orders part 11, from Unit The Royal
Nfld. Regt. St. John's, dated July 15, 1918.

#5435 Pte. J. Mercer.

Admitted to Barracks Hospital 13-7-18

C.R.

5435

Extract from Daily Orders part 11, from ~~Unit~~ the Royal
Nfld. Regt. St. John's, dated ~~August 1st~~ July 30th, 1918,

#5435 Pte. J. Mercer.

Admitted to General Hospital 26-7-18

NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL TELEGRAPHS



Cable Connection with all the World

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 the 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) for 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 Dept of Militia

Line Number	Recd	By	Sent	by	Check
-------------	------	----	------	----	-------

Dated July 29th, 1918

To William Mercer, Port Albert, Twillingate Dist.

Regret to inform you that No. 5435, Mercer is very dangerously ill acute tubercular lung. at General Hospital

W.F. Rendell, Lieut. Col

Chief Staff Officer

FOR TYPEWRITER

C.R. 5435
Counter No.

NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL TELEGRAPHS.

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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 St. John's

Line Number	Rcd	By	Sent	by	Check

Dated August 14, 1918.

To Mr. William Mercer,

Port Albert,

Twillingate Dist.

Regret to inform you that No. 5435 Pte. Jasper

Mercer is still very dangerously ill.

J. R. Bennett,

Minister of Militia.

FOR TYPEWRITER

C.R. 5435

Form No. ...

NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL TELEGRAPHS.

CABLE CONNECTION WITH ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

Line No.

Sent by

Rec'd by

Check

am *21 Coll*

Place from

Post Albert Beaverton

To

Lt Col W F Rendell



WV

Regret to hear of the dangerous
condition of my son if
possible please send him
home to me at once.

5435 no men

Mrs William Morley

12/14

CR 5430

Extract from Daily Orders Part 11 Unit The Royal
Regt. St. John's, dated August 17th, 1918.

5435 Pte. J. Mercer.

Died at St. John's, General Hospital 17-8-18.
struck off the strength from that date.

C.R. 5435

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

August 17th, 1918 191

From Officer Commanding,
Depot

To D.O.C., Newfoundland,
Militia Department

SIR:- 5435 Pte. Jasper Mercer

I am advised by the General Hospital that above noted man died at General Hospital this morning of acute tubercular lung.

Pending instructions regarding disposal of body Mr. Oke, undertaker, has been given charge of remains and to have same coffined and embalmed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant


Asst Adjutant
Depot The Royal Newfoundland Regiment
St. John's, Nfld.

COPY TO CASUALTY OFFICER

The Methodist Church

NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE

ST. JOHN'S DISTRICT
PRES. CONFERENCE, CHAIRMAN

CARBONAR DISTRICT
REV. J. R. SAINT, B.D., D.D., CHAIRMAN

BONAVISTA DISTRICT
REV. C. HOWSE, CHAIRMAN

TWILLINGATE DISTRICT
REV. W. T. D. DUNN, CHAIRMAN

BURIN DISTRICT
REV. J. T. NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN

ST. JOHN'S, N.F., August 20th, 1918. 191

J. R. Bennett, Esq.,

Minister of Militia.

Dear Mr. Bennett,

There is a matter to which I desire to invite attention. During the spring, a large number of young men receiving military training in this city died. For a time indeed the city was almost alarmed, there were so many. If I remember correctly you were not then in the country. But a little incident which came to my attention of late casts a suggestive light upon the situation. Some two or three weeks ago I was requested to visit a young man named Mercer, sick in the General Hospital. He was suffering from Pleuritis. His record showed that for about a fortnight he had been confined to bed in the barracks. I asked him if no doctor visited him there. He replied "Yes, doctors came, but did nothing for me." One, he said, had questioned him respecting his illness - and when he told him where the pain was, he said, "That was where the milk didn't come out," thus turning the fellow's suffering to ridicule. When Mercer told me that, I remarked, "I hope you may recover, as if you don't, I shall have to request an investigation." On Sunday last his remains were taken home for interment; and now it

The Methodist Church

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BONAVISTA DISTRICT
REV. C. HOWSE, CHAIRMAN

TWILLINGATE DISTRICT
REV. W. T. D. DUNN, CHAIRMAN

BURIN DISTRICT
REV. J. T. NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN

ST. JOHN'S, N.F., 191

2.

is incumbent upon me to fulfil my promise to him. The Empire too badly needs the services of young men today, and the country too badly needs them, to have their lives sacrificed through either carelessness or incompetence.

If you will kindly cause the necessary enquiry to be made into his case, I shall be greatly obliged.

Believe me, dear Mr. Bennett,

Faithfully yours,

L. Curtis

C.R. 5435

August 21st 1918.

Major C. Macpherson,
Director Medical Services.

Sir:

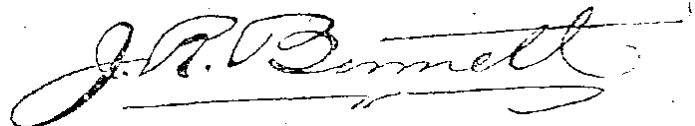
I beg to forward you herewith a letter from the Rev. Dr. Curtis, having reference to the case of a young man named Mercer, who was recently confined to the General Hospital, and subsequently died there.

You will notice by Dr. Curtis' letter that he refers to the action of the doctor attending this man, and claims that the same calls for an investigation or enquiry. Would you, therefore, make the necessary enquiry into this matter, and let me have your report with as little delay as possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Minister of Militia.



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

August 24th, 1918 191

From Officer Commanding,
Depot

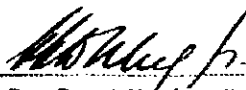
To Paymaster and Officer i/c Records,
Militia Department

5435 Pte. J. Mercer

Above noted man died at St John's General Hospital on 17-8-18. His account has been squared up to and including date of his death and he has a credit balance of Forty Two Dollars and Sixty Cents (\$42.60), which amount is now transferred to your Department for transmission to his next of kin. He has an allotment current of 60¢ per day.

Complete documents on file at Depot in connection with him are sent herewith, together with receipt. Please sign and return.

*OK
LOR*


Asst Adjutant
Depot The Royal Newfoundland Regiment
St. John's, Nfld.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

5435

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

August 26th., 1918.

J. R. Bennett, Esq.,

Minister of Militia.

5435, Pte. J. Mercer

Sir:-

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 21st. with regard to letter forwarded to you by the Rev. Dr. Curtis.

I shall take this matter up immediately on return of Major Paterson, Senior Medical Officer at the Depot, who is at present on Sick Leave.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Major, D. M. S.

Sept. 2nd., 1918.

From:- Acting Medical Officer,
Depot.

To:- Senior Medical Officer,
Depot.

Sir:-

We beg to report on a most extraordinary communication from Rev. L. Curtis, which has been forwarded by the Director of Medical Services to Medical Department, Depot, during your absence.

This letter alleges neglect, carelessness and incompetence on the part of the visiting Medical Officers at the Barracks. Rev. Curtis refers to the case of 5435 Pte. J. Mercer who died at the General Hospital, and quotes an imaginary conversation, which he claims took place at the Barracks, in which one of the Medical Officers is alleged to have ridiculed the sufferings of a sick man and did nothing for him. This is a most serious accusation to make.

Rev. Curtis states that Pte. Mercer was "confined to bed in Barracks for about a fortnight", thus suggesting that the man was left in bed in his quarters and neglected. This is an entirely false and ridiculous statement. The general tone of the letter would further seem to insinuate that the number of deaths, which have occurred amongst the men under military training here, were due to carelessness and incompetence on the part of the Military Authorities and Medical Officers at the Depot.

The facts of the case of Pte. Mercer are as follows:- This man reported sick on Sick Parade on the morning of July 13th. 1918. He was seen and examined by Dr. A. C. Tait who found that he had a temperature of 100 degrees, cough and pain in side. He was at once removed from Barracks and put in Barracks Hospital and placed under close observation in bed. The necessary diet and treatment were ordered for the case and his temperature taken morning and evening and entered in the Hospital Record. Dr. Burden examined him daily and discussed the case with Major Paterson and Dr. Tait, as the signs upon auscultation were very unusual. Upon his presenting further symptoms indicating extending serious lung lesion he was transferred by Dr. Tait to the General Hospital. (N.Y.D.) on 26/7/18 and his condition reported to Major Paterson.

At the Hospital his condition was diagnosed temporarily as 'Pleuritis'. His condition during the 13 days in Hospital at Barracks although not considered of a very serious nature was carefully watched and not in the least liable to occasion any vulgar remarks as quoted by Rev. Curtis.

His symptoms before transfer to General Hospital did not allow of a definite diagnosis, as the case may have been one of developing Acute Pulmonary Tuberculosis or Interstitial Broncho-Pneumonia, the most serious signs not showing until patient had been ill for some days. His condition at any rate did not warrant his being transferred to the General Hospital even one day before he was sent there, so that any insinuation that this man was kept too long in Barracks and was not treated for fourteen days in an absolute falsehood, and such a statement could only be made by a person absolutely ignorant of the details of ordinary medical routine in a Military Barracks.

We consider the charges of neglect etc. most unfair and uncalled for.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Sgd) F. H. BURDEN
ARCH. C. TAIT

September 4th., 1918.

From:- S. M. O. Depot.

To:- D. M. S.

35, Pte. Mercer, J.

I beg to enclose report from Drs. Tait and Burden in the case of the marginally noted man.

I saw the man several times personally and was consulted on more than one occasion about him and endorse the Barracks Hospital report.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgt) L. PATERSON, Major

ENCLOSURE.

SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

5435

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

September 6th., 1918.

J. R. Bennett, Esq.,
Minister of Militia.

5435, Pte. Mercer, J.

Sir:-

In accordance with your request I have made enquiries in the matter of treatment of the marginally noted man, and attach reports herewith.

It is extremely regrettable that such importance should be attached to the statement of a possibly delirious man, and yet that no record should be sent until after the man's death.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Major, D. M. S.

ENCLOSURE.

CM/AMB.

C.R. 5435

September 13th 1919.

Major C. Macpherson,
Director Medical Services.

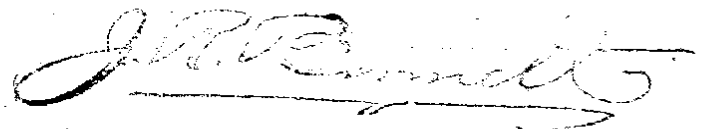
#5435 Pte. J. Mercer.

Sir:

I beg to forward you herewith copy of a communication which I have received from the Rev. Dr. E. Curtis, in reference to the case of the late #5435 Pte. J. Mercer.

You will agree with me, I am sure, that this matter has reached a stage when some thorough enquiry is essential so that no misunderstanding may exist as to the attitude of this Department. I, therefore, think that you should inquire into, and report upon the whole facts as you find them.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,



Minister of Militia.

C.R. 5435

September 13th 1918.

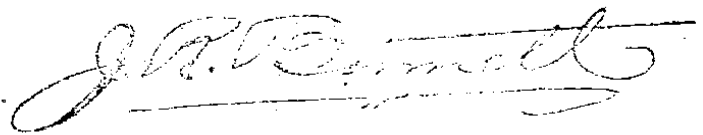
Dear Dr. Curtis, #5435 Pte. J. Mercer.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. having reference to the case of the late #5435 Pte. J. Mercer.

I have interviewed Major Macpherson, Director of Medical Services, in connection with this subject, and I have forwarded your letter to him, instructing him to make a thorough enquiry into the whole matter and report on the same at the earliest possible date.

Upon receipt of such report I shall again address you on the subject.

Yours faithfully,



Minister of Militia.

Rev. L. Curtis, M.A., D.D.,

C i t y.

C.R. 5435

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

October 11th, 1918 191

From Asst. Adjutant,
Depot

To Lieut. Warren,
Militia Department

5435 late Pte. J. Mercer

I send herewith a purse handed me from Barracks
Hospital containing the sum of Twenty Dollars (\$20),
belonging to above noted man. Will you please for-
ward to his relatives in the usual way.

*Hand over to
Capt Bowley
W.V.B.*

W.V.B.
Asst Adjutant
Depot The Royal Newfoundland Regiment
St. John's, Nfld.

CCD*AC



M.F.A.E.

Depot
5435

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,

Oct. 11th, 1918.....

Received from Assistant Adjutant, Depot, one purse
containing the sum of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00), the property
of 5435 late Pte. J. Mercer.

M. Howley, Capt
Paymaster

C.R. 5435-

Jan 3rd, 1919

Mr. William Mercer

Port Albert, N.D.B.

Dear Sir:-

The Army Council have requested that they may be furnished with particulars of the Graves of all Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of His Majesty's Forces, raised in any part of the British Empire, who died in the Overseas Dominions during the present war. I should be glad, therefore, if you will inform me of the following particulars concerning No. 5435, Private Jasper Mercer:-

- 1.....Location of Grave (for example: Methodist Cemetery, Catboursar)
- 2.....Whether the Grave has been temporarily or permanently marked; that is, what kind of Headstone; if any, has been erected.

A reply to this letter at your earliest convenience would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Lieut. Col.,

Chief Staff Officer.

C.R. 5435

Post Albert;

N. D. Bay.

Jan 25th - 19.

P

To W. F. Rendell,
Chief Staff Officer.
St. John's.

Dear Sir:

In Answer to your letter,
Concerning the particulars of my son, 5435 Plé.
Jasper Mercer - who died in General Hospital Aug.
17th - 18.

Particulars as follows:

Sent home. (Post Albert N. D. Bay) & buried in
the Methodist Cemetery here.

No Headstone has been erected as yet.

Yours faithfully.

William Mercer x.

10854

Port albert

may 14 1920

Jim Houley

Department of militia

Dear sir

I am again writing concerning these Cheque's which was drawn on Nov 1st 1916. I want to know if there is any thing can be done they are no good as they are they were sent to me and I got them honest and I got them cashed but I have had to send back the money again so if there is any thing can be done I want to know if you will see to it for me and let me know my son went as other woman's son but did not reach the battle field yet he don his bit he gave his life that is all he could do for and he has a sister who in not yet reach the age an which she was entitled to a pension she is only 16 years of age but she was entitled to a pension until she reach the age of 17

if there is any thing can be done you will you kindly oblige me by doing so

sons name 5435 Pte Jasper Mercer

Regt Newfoundland Reg.

Yours very truly
Mrs W M Mercer
Port albert

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

To the Officer in Charge of Records,



The Royal Nfld. Regt.

Dept. of Militia,

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld.

NO STAMP REQUIRED

Dept. of Militia,

St. John's.

Sept 20th 1921

I beg to acknowledge receipt

Memorial Plaque issued in respect of services of
the late No. 5435 Rank

Name Jasper Mercer
Royal Newfoundland Regt.

Mr. J. M. [unclear] (Sgd.)

Father Relationship.

Address Port au Port.

5435

Sept 20 #/9211

Dep of militia

Dear sir

I would much like
for you if you could
send me something to
wear in remembrance
of my dear Boy
Yrs Jasper Mercer
5435

I would be much oblig
with any thing yours
truly

Mrs Wm Mercer

Port Albert