

No Picture Available



Mary Lillian (Mercer) House
Canadian Women's Army Corps
C.W.A.C.
World War II

Born: 23 September 1923

Died: 1985

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Edward and Annie Mildred (nee Mercer) Mercer

Edward (Edwin) and Annie were married on July 16th, 1921. They were both 27 years old according to the enumeration in the 1921 Newfoundland general census that year, there were no children listed at the time.

Lillian was the first child born to Edward and Annie

At the time of the 1935 Newfoundland general census of Mercer's Cove, Bay

Roberts shows Lillian was 11 and her brother Eugene 6. Her father Edward now 40 years old has remarried after the death of his first wife, Annie, in Nov 1930. Edward married Clara Badcock at age 30. Both had been married previously.

Lillian enlisted in the Canadian Women's Army Corps, commonly referred to as CWAC's.

“During the Second World War, Canadian women, for the first time, were mobilized for service in the Canadian Armed Forces. Of the approximately 50,000 women who enlisted, about half served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC). Most were assigned jobs involving traditional female work such as cooking, laundry, and clerical duties, but women also pioneered roles in the mechanized and technical fields. The CWAC performed essential services, both at home and overseas, that helped bring about Allied victory. Today, women are fully integrated into the Canadian armed forces. As of December 2024, more than 14 per cent of Canadian Army personnel were women.”

Facts about the CWAC:

1. Founded on 13 August 1941; integrated into the Canadian Army on 13 March 1942
2. Disbanded on 30 September 1946
3. 21,624 women served in the CWAC



Since World War II personnel records are not available to the public yet, it is difficult to determine anything about Lillian's service in the CWAC. All that is known is that she may have served, in Nova Scotia.

*From The Bay Roberts Guardian
14 August 1943*

Misses Lillian Mercer, Bertha Mercer and June Brown have been accepted for service with the Canadian Women's Army Corps., and will shortly be leaving for Canada to begin their training.

*From The Bay Roberts
Guardian
28 August 1943*

SUPRISE PARTY FOR C.W.A.C. RECRUIT

The members of the U. C. Choir, together with a number of friends and several members of the Nfld. Regiment, met at Snowden Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 11th, and tendered a surprise party to Miss Lillian Mercer, daughter of Edward Mercer of Isaac, who recently volunteered for service in the Canadian Women's Army Corps. During the evening an address was read by Miss Audrey Snow while Gordon King made the presentation on behalf of those present. Lillian was very much surprised and in a few words thanked all for the gift and the party given in her honour. The address is as follows:

ADDRESS

Dear Lillian,—We consider it a great pleasure to have this opportunity to gather here this evening to do you honour Lillian, a girl of great character, charm and personality. .

There is also a touch of sadness in that it means severance, for a time at least, of our relationship, but it is a noble call which could not go unanswered in a heart such as yours.

Your genial smile and friendliness, with your many other qualifications, will carry you in your undertaking, and we wish you God-speed, health, and the best of everything until we meet again, and as a token of our love and esteem we ask you to accept this purse from your Co-workers and friends.

**The United Church
Choir and Friends.**

Bay Roberts,
Aug. 11, 1943.

The 1945 census shows Lillian married to Charles Hubert House of Greenspond, Newfoundland. A sailor with the RCN, she possibly met while in service. They are living on Topsail Road in the Harbour Main-Bell Island district. Hubert is 31 and Lillian 22, daughter Judith is just several months old. The couple would have nine children in all, 5 boys and 4 girls.

Lillian died in 1985 and husband, Hubert in 1988. They are buried in Mount Patricia Cemetery, Corner Brook, Newfoundland.