

**Nathan Mercer**  
**Canadian Engineers of**  
**The Canadian Expeditionary Force**  
**World War I**

**Born:** 22 Nov 1896 (According to his enlistment documents but it appears to be incorrect)

**Place of Birth:** Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

**Parents:** William Charles and Elizabeth Ann (Tetford) Mercer

Nathan enlisted late in World War I. It was on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1918 that he signed his attestation papers to become a sapper with Canadian Engineers of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. Upon enlistment, he gave his address as Cambridge, Massachusetts.

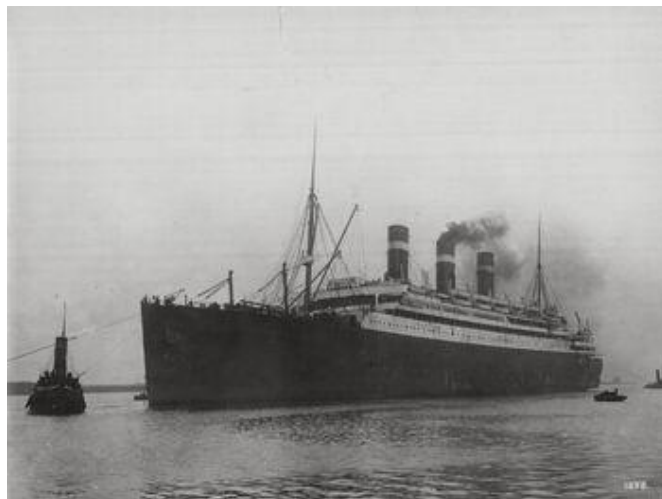
From the answers he gave to questions on his form, a picture of Nathan arises. He was

5 feet 4 ½ inches tall, weighed just 128 lbs and was of fair complexion with brown hair and grey eyes. Nathan was a carpenter by trade and of the Methodist faith.

He had previously had and passed the mandatory medical which had been conducted in Boston a week earlier on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

Nathan's service record contains the following entries:

1. Embarked Canada on the S.S. Pannonia:
2. Disembarked England: 05 – 08 – 18
3. TOS (taken of strength) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CERB (Canadian Engineers Reserve Battalion) upon arrival from Canada: 09 – 09 – 18
4. On command at Bourley; 09 – 09 – 18
5. Off command at Bourley: 21 – 09 – 18
6. Embarked Liverpool on the S.S. Belgic: 22 – 06 – 19



**S.S. Belgic (1914)**

7. Disembarked Halifax, Canada: 01 – 07 – 19
8. Discharged: 08 – 07 – 19

Upon release from service, Nathan did not return home to Newfoundland. He moved to British Columbia, where he worked, died and is buried. He is buried in the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Burnaby, B.C.

***The Daily News***

***February 24, 1956***

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***Spaniard's Bay, February 20th -***

*News was received here recently of the death of Nathaniel Mercer at Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver, B.C. The late Mr. Mercer, a former resident of Spaniard's Bay, went overseas with the First Newfoundland Regiment in World War I, and on his return took up residence in Vancouver. He never married.*

*He leaves to mourn two brothers, Eli and John of Spaniard's Bay, and three sisters, Laura (Mrs. P. Fowler) at Bell Island, Minnie (Mrs. George Mercer) Bishop's Cove, and Mary (Mrs. John Sheppard) at Spaniard's Bay. To his surviving relatives we offer our sympathy.*

**Please Note:** *The writing of this biography has presented a number of challenges. There are some inconsistencies that are attributed to lack of resources and/or human error in the recording of events. It is, however, certainly a best guess scenario for this particular Newfoundland veteran.*