

*No Picture
Available*



Walter Ralph Mercer

United States Army

Service No. Ra11168310

Korean War

Born: 13 Sep 1924

Died: 13 Dec 1977

Place of Birth: Chelsea, Massachusetts, U.S. A.

Parents: Azariah and Annie Violet (nee Hiscock)
Mercer

Although born in the United States, both Walter's parents were from Bay Roberts, and it is clear from records that Walter spent a number of years in Bay Roberts as a boy and young man.

Walter's father, Azariah was a World War I Royal Navy veteran who moved to the United States with his wife, Annie, in search of work and a better life. The couple settled in Chelsea, Massachusetts where Azariah found work as a carpenter.

Over the next number of years, the couple who have Walter, Alma, Elizabeth, Wallace, and Dorothy, all of whom were US born.

The 1930 United States Federal census shows the Mercer family living in Brooklyn, Kings, New York. Azariah is 33, Annie 30, Walter 5, Alma 4, Elizabeth 3, and Wallace 1.

Just a year after this census, Azariah suffered a severe accident that for all intents ended his ability to work. The family moved back to Newfoundland and is found in the 1935 Newfoundland general census living in Bay Roberts. The family is now comprised of parents, Azariah and Annie, and children: Walter 10, Alma 9, Elizabeth 8, Wallace 7 and Dorothy 4.

The following year, Azariah died, leaving wife Annie as the single parent of five (5) young children. Annie would remarry, becoming Annie French.

Walter being the oldest, found employment with the U.S. Public Works in the United States Navy at Argentia Naval Base, where in 1944 he received a draft card for the war. At age nineteen (19) Walter did not serve at that time but did enlist in United States Army on October 15th, 1948. Upon enlistment, Walter is described as being 5' 5" tall, 132 lbs, of light complexion with brown hair and blue eyes.

He is listed as a Korean War veteran, was promoted to corporal, and spent four (4) years in the Army before being discharged in June 1952.

Walter passed away at the early age of fifty-three (53). He is buried in the Hillside Cemetery, East Hartford, Connecticut. He was not married.

Walter's Draft Card (Feb. 1944)

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)			
SERIAL NUMBER K 137	1. NAME (Print) Walter Ralph Mercer (First) (Middle) (Last)		ORDER NUMBER K 13035
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (State) [THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]			
3. MAILING ADDRESS Argentia, Newfoundland (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)			
4. TELEPHONE (Exchange) (Number)	5. AGE IN YEARS 19 DATE OF BIRTH Sept. 13 1924 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Chelsea (Town or county) Mass. (State or country)	
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. A. French, Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Public Works Depart., U.S. Navy, U.S. Naval Operating Base, Argentina, Newfoun			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42)		(over) ☆ GPO 16-21630-1 (Registrant's signature)	

Clipping from The Evening Telegram dated 19 July 1951

Korean Veterans Welcomed Home **BAY ROBERTS (Special)**—Cpls Wallace and Ralph Mercer, sons of Mrs. A. French of Bay Roberts are serving with the 7th Division, 32nd Brigade, U.S. Infantry. It was this Division which penetrated to the furthest point north in North Korea. Both young men are looking very fit after their 10 months of action in Korea, and will be returning to bases in the United States soon. They have been very fortunate so far in being in the same division and in getting home together. Both soldiers report that the weather in Korea is extremely hot and the country is very rough. They're glad to be home again after 10 months of fighting. Wallace was promoted to Corporal while in Korea. The members of the former W. P.A., under the leadership of Miss R. F. Parsons, O.B.E. held a reception in honour of Ralph and Wallace in the Public Building. From The Evening Telegram 19 July 1951