

A short History on the naval career of Harry Laurence (Larry) Adye Minchin

In July 1942, at the age of seventeen, Larry joined the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserves (RCNVR) as a Stoker. After basic and trades training he was off to join the WW II effort in England and Europe.

His 1st ship was HMCS HURON was a Tribal Class Destroyer operating from Scapa Flow, along the Norwegian coast to Murmansk, Russia. Larry served in this theatre until March 1944.

The HURON was then transferred to Plymouth - the theatre of operation was now the English Channel and the Bay of Biscay for D-Day landings. Larry served in this area until August 1944, when he was drafted back to Halifax, N.S.

In Halifax he was drafted to HMCS MICMAC, a Tribal Class Destroyer where they were doing "Builders Trials" preparing the ship for acceptance into the RCN. While on Pacific leave he reported to the naval base HMCS Naden at Esquimalt, and transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy, he was now regular force - he said he found peace in the Pacific after what he had seen in the Atlantic.

He was a member of the Commissioning Crew of HMCS WARRIOR, at Belfast Ireland, January 24th, 1946. The WARRIOR was an Aircraft Carrier with "Seafire" and "Firefly" aircraft aboard. The WARRIOR sailed for Halifax N.S., but after sea trials they found she was unsuitable for duty in the Atlantic area and in November she was transferred to Esquimalt, B.C. by way of the Panama Canal. Larry served two years in the WARRIOR.

Larry left the WARRIOR in Esquimalt; and returned to Halifax where he was drafted to HMCS CAYUGA - a Tribal Class Destroyer. They transferred the CAYUGA back to Esquimalt; once again through the Panama Canal; he served two years in her.

He was drafted to HMC Dockyard and served aboard HMCS ANTIGONISH, a River Class Frigate, used as a training vessel.

He was once again drafted to HMCS CAYUGA. This time the CAYUGA joined the Korean Conflict. He served on her from 1951 – 1952.

When CAYUGA returned to Esquimalt he was drafted to HMCS ANTIGONISH and later to HMCS ONTARIO. The ONTARIO was a Cruiser that had returned to Esquimalt for a refit. She ended her career as a training vessel.

Larry said very little of his WW II and Korean service however history tells us of the perils and dangers these men faced each day.

In August 1955, Larry retired from the RCN as a Petty Officer First Class (PO1) with 13 years of service. He received the following medals: The 1939-1943 Star; The France & Germany Star ; The Canadian Volunteer Medal (CVSM) with Bar; the 1939-45 War Medal; The Canadian Service Medal for Korea; The United Nations Medal for Korea; The Canadian Forces Decoration – CD.

After he retired from the RCN he joined the Naval Fire Service as a Fireman at HMC Dockyard, Esquimalt B.C. He retired in August 1985 after 30 years of service. He received a Plaque from the Federal

Government signed by the Prime Minister, "Pierre Elliott Trudeau" for 25 years in the Federal Public Service. Larry received the British Columbia Fire Service Medal for 25 years service.