

## **McLELLAN, Allan Joseph (#A/4167)**

Allan Joseph McLellan, at age 36, enlisted with the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve (RCNR). Unfortunately, his stint in the military lasted only nine months when Allan was deemed “Medically unfit” and discharged in October 1941. He spent most of his remaining time in a sanitarium. Two years after the war ended and six years after first being diagnosed with tuberculosis, Allan passed away at Queen Alexandra Sanitarium.

Allan “Cap” McLellan was born on March 28, 1904 in Southampton, Ontario, the son of Alexander and Mary (nee Longe) McLellan. Alexander McLellan (born 1874 in Michigan) and Mary Longe (born 1875) were married on April 7, 1898 in Port Huron. Alexander and Mary McLellan would be blessed with six children together: Beatrice Alberta (born 1898); Harold Alexander (born 1901); Allan Joseph; John Angus (born 1906), Adeline ‘Ada’ (born 1909) and Arnold James (born 1911). Alexander McLellan supported his family working as a marine captain. The McLellans lived first at 264 Devine Street and later at 286 South Vidal Street, Sarnia.

Allan was a member of St. Joseph’s Catholic Parish, Sarnia, and attended two years of high school. In his younger days, he was an outstanding softball and soccer player and was also prominent in other forms of athletics. Allan had several jobs prior to joining the military: as an acetylene burner for six months with the Canadian Kellogg Company (construction); as a clerk in the Ontario Liquor Control Board store on Front Street in Sarnia; and as a Seaman with Imperial Oil Shipping Company.

After serving for some time with Imperial Oil Shipping, thirty-six-year-old Allan McLellan enlisted in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve (RCNR) on January 20, 1941 in London, Ontario. He stood five feet five and one-quarter inches tall, had blue eyes and brown hair, was single and residing with his parents on Vidal Street in Sarnia at the time. From London Division Head Quarters, Allan was posted on April 22, 1941 to *HMCS Stadacona* in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman.

The *Stadacona* was originally a 682 ton, 196-foot yacht named *SS Columbia*, launched in 1899. It was commissioned by the RCN in August 1915 and renamed the *HMCS Stadacona*. The *Stadacona* was one of several private yachts acquired by the RCN during the First World War—it was a patrol vessel based out of Halifax. The *Stadacona* was sold in 1924, ending its RCN naval duties. The Royal Canadian Navy Maritime Command base in Halifax, Nova Scotia became the *HMCS Stadacona* in 1925. During World War II, this RCN shore establishment served as a depot and training base, with machine shops, stores buildings, barracks, administration offices and drill halls needed to maintain the hundreds of corvettes being commissioned during the Battle of the Atlantic.

Able Seaman Allan McLellan received his training at *HMCS Stadacona* and served only in Canada, from January 1941 to October 1941. It was during his service in Halifax, in May 1941, that he became ill, with symptoms that included a cold, sore chest, loss of voice and sick stomach. He was treated in the Halifax Military Hospital, and later diagnosed with Pulmonary Tuberculosis. He was discharged on October 6, 1941 as “Medically Unfit”.

After his discharge from the navy, Allan McLellan entered the Queen Elizabeth Sanitarium in Byron, where he remained for most of his time until his death. On May 23, 1947, two years after the war ended in Europe, forty-three-year-old Allan McLellan passed away at the Queen Alexandra Sanitarium. After his death, it was determined that his Pulmonary Tuberculosis condition had existed prior to his enlistment, but became worse during his service, and was “aggravated as a result of his military duties”. His cause of death was officially recorded as, *Far advanced pulmonary tuberculosis due to left broncho pleural fistula with pyoneumothorax. Death was related to military service.*

Besides his parents Alexander and Mary McLellan on Vidal Street in Sarnia, Allan was survived by his three brothers--Harold, John and Arnold--and his two sisters: Mrs. Beatrice Birmingham of Sarnia and Mrs. Kenneth Haines (Ada) of Talara, Peru. In January 1945, Alexander and Mary McLellan received a War Service Gratuity of \$60.00 for the loss of their son. Allan’s funeral was held on May 27, 1947 out of the McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home with a Requiem High Mass celebrated at St. Joseph’s Church. Pallbearers were members of Sarnia Branch No. 62 Canadian Legion. Internment was at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Cemetery, Sarnia, Ontario, Lot 11, Range 6, Grave D. On Allan McLellan’s headstone are inscribed the words, BELOVED SON OF ALEX AND MARY McLELLAN. In November 2019, his name along with 25 others was added to the Sarnia cenotaph, engraved in stone to be remembered always.

From: *The Sarnia War Remembrance Project*, by Tom Slater