

Private John Albert McKay H19432, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

By
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Private John Albert McKay H19432, son of James Albert McKay and Laura Jane Folster, was born August 14 1915 at Herb Lake, Manitoba

Father, James Albert McKay was born on May 9 1882 in Kinosota, Manitoba, Canada. He married Laura Jane Folster on July 2 1902 at Westbourne, Manitoba. They had 12 children,

- i. Grace Bell McKay b. 26 Apr 1904 Herb Lake Manitoba, m. Allison Rodgers 14 Jun 1923 in Winnipeg Manitoba, m. Gordon Bayne Peters, d. 05 Apr 1988 Dryden, Ontario
- ii. Norman Malcolm Mckay b. 04 Jan 1906, Sandy Lake, m. Gertrude Ouisse

Dondiet 10 Feb 1926 in Kenora, Ontario, d. 16 Jun 1960 in Kenora, Ontario

iii. Walter George McKay b. Amaranth, Manitoba, Canada, m. Gladys Palmira Crowley 08 Feb 1928 in Kenora, d. 17 Apr 1983 in Kenora, Ontario

iv. William Charles McKay b. 17 May 1908, Ceder Lake, Unorganized territories, Le Pas, Manitoba, m. Gertrude Florence McDonald 17 Jun 1936 in Kenora, Ontario, d. 1978 Kenora, Ontario

v. Jemema Anne McKay b. 12 Dec 1912 in Hollywood, Manitoba, m. James Walter McDonald 09 Apr 1928 in Kenora, Ontario, d. 19 Sep 1996 Kelowna, British Columbia.

vi. Florence McKay b. 1914 Manitoba, m. Charles Pirrie 05 Dec 1933 Winnipeg, Manitoba, d. 04 Jun 1960 Winnipeg, Manitoba

vii. James Edward McKay b. 14 Aug 1915 at Herb Lake, Manitoba, m. Winnifred Elsie Clark, d. 26 Apr 1969 in Kenora Ontario

viii. John Albert McKay b. 14 Aug 1915 at Herb Lake, Manitoba, Evelyn Elizabeth White, d. 21 Jul 1944 Fought with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

ix. Pearl McKay b. 08 Jun 1918 Manitoba, m. Clarence Arthur Parkes d. 21 Apr 1981 in Kenora, Ontario

x. Alexander Allen McKay b. 25 May 1920 at Herb Lake Manitoba, 13 Sep 1944 fighting with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

Hugh Robert Harry McKay b. 16 Aug 1923 Winnipeg, Manitoba, d. 20 Feb 1944 Tollwitz, Saalekreis, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany

xi. Sybil McKay b. 1925, m. John A, Crigger, d. 1962 Minnitaki, Ontario

James Albert McKay moved to Kenora in 1925 and about 6 months later died falling off the roof of the local Paper Mill on Feb 28 1926. His wife Laura remarried Allan McLean in June 28 1933 in Winnipeg. She lost three sons in World War 2 in 1944. She was a Silver Cross Mother. She died in Winnipeg on August 21 1952.

Veteran of the Dieppe raid and third of three Winnipeg brothers reported a casualty while serving overseas, L/Sgt. Allan A. McKay, 25, died of wounds in France Sept. 13. He was a son of Mrs. Laura McLean, 259 Isabel st.

Word of his death came from Ottawa Thursday, following advice earlier in the week of the loss of two other sons, WO.2 Hugh Robert and Pte. John A.

Sgt. Allan was born at Herb Lake, Man., and attended schools in Winnipeg. He went overseas with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlander.

WO.2 Hugh, reported missing last February in air operations over Germany, when on his 24th flight, is now believed killed. Born in Winnipeg 21 years ago, he joined the air force in July, 1942, and was posted overseas the following January.

Pte. John, 29, was killed in action in France Sept. 12, while serving with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. He was born at Herb Lake and attended schools in Winnipeg. Enlisting in September, 1939, he went overseas in December, 1940.

A fourth brother, James, discharged because of ill health after two years' service with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, is working in a paper mill at Kenora.

Besides their mother and brother, they are survived by three sisters and a brother in Winnipeg and another brother and two sisters in Ontario.

Three Brothers Casualties



L./SGT. ALLAN A. McKAY
Died of wounds



PTE. J. A. McKAY
Killed In Action



WO2. H. R. McKAY
Believed Killed

John Albert McKay enlisted September 12 1939 in Winnipeg and took rank of private with Queen's Own Camerons of Canada. The regiment mobilized The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, CASF for active service on 1 September 1939. It was redesignated as the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, CASF on 7 November 1940. It embarked for Great Britain on 12 December 1940. He disembarked in Gournock on December 26 1940. He missed Operation Jubilee entering the 8 General Hospital August 5 1942 remaining there until September 21 1942.

On July 2 1944, following Protestant at Barham Church, Kent, the brigade was confined to camp prior to moving to marshalling area for EXERCISE "OVERLORD". The next day Reveille for unit was given at 3 A. M. and the Troops left BROOME PK (conc area) for marshalling area via train - entraining pt SHEPHERD'S WELL, Kent. for ISFIELD, SUSSEX. That night the troops were entertained with an ENSA concert in NAAFI tent and sports and reading facilities made available to keep troops rested. On July 5 troops embarked on USOS "WILL ROGERS". arriving at convoy RV, dropping anchor at 1245 hrs. On the night of July 6/7 the troops cross the English channel in rough seas GRAY sur MER France and concentrate at RYE CALVADOS FRANCE where they in around hedgerows. On July 11 the Battalion move forward to nr Rots via VIELLIERE le SEC - BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE. Next they moved on to CARPRIQUET airdrome and then to occupy CARPRIQUET and S SASK R area MARSELET. The town is completely demolished and then take up a defensive position.

On 14th order given for the clearing of snipers from Carpriquet. Night 16/17 Enemy ac flew in low approx 800 yds in front of B coy (Maj R H Lane) and dropped flares on FUS M R positions. These planes were followed by Lt bombers and fighters (8-10) Bombing and strafing FUS M R. Mortaring continued of Carpriquet area. On July 20 at 1100 a brigade moves to Fauberge de Vaucelles. Battalion attack from FLEURY sur ORNE during daylight consolidating at ST ANDRE sur ORNE holding against all counter attacks. The Bn received special mention in dispatches from Staff Officers and the Press for its work in holding this town which formed a salient into the enemy lines. Battle continues for the next 48 hours without any relief from set in COs carrier.

21 JULY 1944

He disembarked in France on July 8 1944, as part of the 6th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division. He was first reported missing July 21 1944 and subsequently found and buried August 14 1944 at Saint Martin de Fontenay. His body was reinterred and buried at the Canadian Military Cemetery at Bretteville-sur-Laize, France at Grave 4, Row, Plot 2.

Brothers Alexander Allan McKay and John Hugh Robert McKay also died

in 1944.