William McAllister





Rank: - Able Seaman

Number: - P/JX 261487

Service: - Royal Navy H.M.S. Ledbury.

Died: - Died in RNA Hospital, Kingseat, Aberdeen of leukaemia 23/02/1943
Age: 23 years.

Cemetery: - Batley Cemetery Sec. V. Grave 276.

William was born on 20 April 1918 in Hemsworth the son of James and Amelia McAllister (nee Webb who had married on 11 July 1908 at St. Peters Church, Farnworth, James was born in 1909 followed by Amelia 1916 (born in Dewsbury District) and William. The family returned to live in Batley and in 1939 lived at 55, Purlwell Avenue, Mount Pleasant, Batley.

William attended Staincliffe Church School later becoming a cotton twiner for the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Staincliffe before joining the Royal Navy in early 1941.He was a well-known local wrestler. William had been serving on a

destroyer, HMS Ledbury which in August 1942 took up the role of close escort in the Pedestal convoy to Malta. During the fierce attacks that dogged the convoy, *Ledbury* claimed three enemy aircraft destroyed and five damaged, and was one of three destroyers that helped the crippled oil tanker *Ohio* into the Grand Harbour. William had earlier been engaged in convoy work in the Mediterranean. William was ill and was taken to a Scottish Naval Hospital where he died at Kingseat, Aberdeen of leukaemia on the 23 February 1943.



BATLEY MAN'S DEATH IN NAVAL HOSPITAL.

Able Seaman William McAllister (24), son of Mr. and Mrs. James McAllister, 55, Purlwell Avenue, Batley, died in a Scottish Naval Hospital last week. He had been serving on a destroyer and for a time was engaged on convoy work in the Mediterranian.

A well known local wrestler, A.B. McAllister joined the Navy just over two years ago while a cotton twiner for the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Staincliffe. He attended Staincliffe Church School. In addition to his parents he leaves one brother, Mr. James McAllister, of Batley Carr; and one sister, Mrs. Norman James, of Dewsbury.

William McAllister.

The Vicar of Carlinghow, Rev. J. S. Walker conducted the funeral at Batley Cemetery on Monday, when members of Dewsbury and District Sea Cadets, under Sub-Lieut. J. Shaw, R.N.V.R., bore the coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack, to the grave.

Batley News, 6 Mar 1943

The Vicar of Carlinghow, Rev. J. B. Walker, conducted the funeral at Batley Cemetery on Monday 1 March 1943, when members of Dewsbury and District Sea Cadets under Sub. Lieut. J. Shaw RNVR bore the coffin which was draped with the Union Jack. Family mourners were his parents, brother and sister-in-law, sister, Mr & Mrs. T. Long, Mr.& Mrs. A. Pearse and Mrs Webb (uncles and aunts), Mr. H. Newton, Mrs. C. James, Mrs. R. Taylor, and Miss R. Webb (cousins). There were many friends.

William is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group