

POSTCARD



Engine Room Artificer
Joseph Francis MacMillan
1910-1943



Address

A Hero Lived Here

250 Wonham Street S

Ingersoll, ON

N5C 2Z6

Canada Grieves

Mourning will be widespread across the Dominion over the loss in action of H.M.C.S. St. Croix and the gallant crew that manned her. For no ship in Canada's navy which has been the victim of enemy action in this war has carried a crew which represented as many different localities. And few Canadian warships which have gone down in the grey waters of the Atlantic have carried so many of their crews to their graves with them. But this mourning will be mixed with a sense of pride, because these men died in the course of duty in action against the enemy.

Wars cannot be fought without losses. And the men in the services, whether they died in the smoke and flame of the battlefield, or on the misty expanses of the sea, or whether they meet their end high over the earth know well when they go into action that they may be entering their last fight. But for those whose role is that of waiting at home, not knowing from day to day when the fateful telegram may arrive that will announce the loss of a loved one, there can be no such buoying up of spirit as comes to the sailor, the soldier or the airman who goes into action, and in the heat of that action forgets his personal fears.

Tragic as is the loss of these men of the St. Croix, their families who are safe in this country, for whom they fought and died, have an even more tragic role—tragic in that their grief may be something from which they will be long in recovering. Sympathy helps. But sympathy cannot soften the blow occasioned by the loss of loved ones to any marked degree. There is a void in their lives that only time can heal. But that the sympathy of all will go out freely to them, there is no doubt. And with it, their country's pride in these men will be mingled.

Engine Room Artificer Joseph Francis MacMillan was a son of Benjamin Alexander MacMillan and Mary MacMillan, of Ingersoll, Ontario. Husband of Beulah Maud MacMillan, of Woodstock, Ontario.

Joseph enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1941. He was posted to the HMCS St. Croix and began escorting convoys of ships to Iceland, in effort to protect them from German U-boat wolf packs.

On September 20, 1943, Engine Room Artificer Joseph Francis MacMillan was killed as the St. Croix was torpedoed by a U-boat.

He is remembered by HALIFAX MEMORIAL in Nova Scotia's capital, erected in Point Pleasant Park, is one of the few tangible reminders of the men who died at sea.

In partnership, Oxford County Library and Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum recognize the service of Ingersoll veterans.

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