

WW II Casualties of Whitewater Region

Private Ivan Henry ANDERSON

Ivan Henry ANDERSON, son of **John Thomas ANDERSON** and **Elizabeth Mary LOWE**, was born on 2 Mar 1923 in Cobden, Ontario. His father J. T. Anderson was a barber in the community. Ivan was the 3rd of five children – 4 boys and 1 girl. His father grew up in Westmeath Twp., and his mother near Locksley.¹ Ivan reached grade 8 in his education and was considered an unskilled laborer. His last two jobs prior to entering service were a 9-month employment at Wright-Hargreaves Mine in Kirkland Lake and 2 months in a rolling mill in Welland, Ontario.²

At the age of 19 ½, Ivan Anderson enlisted into the 48th Highlanders on Sep 16, 1942 at Toronto. His parents & brothers Lyndsay & Allan were living in Welland, ON at the time. His brother Lyall was in Kirkland Lake and his sister Ora Gardiner was living in Toronto. He was described as 5' 10" tall, weighing 126 lbs. He had blue eyes, medium complexion and brown hair. His mother was listed as his beneficiary.²

Pte. Anderson disembarked in the UK on Mar 17, 1943 and later transferred to the Essex Scottish Regiment, Canadian Infantry. He arrived in France for frontline duty on Jul 6, 1944. It was just 15 days later that he was killed in action on 21 Jul 1944 near Caen, Calvados, Normandy, France.² A newspaper article published in the Cobden Sun describes the circumstances of his death.⁴ He was 21 years, 3 months old. Pte. Anderson was buried in Bretteville-sur-Laize, Calvados, Normandy, France (Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian Military Cemetery, Bretteville-sur-Laize, France).^{2,5,6,7}

Pte. Anderson's name is also engraved on The Welland-Crowland War Memorial.⁸



Image 1: Ivan Anderson³



Image 2: Welland-Crowland War Memorial⁸

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**KILLED IN ACTION
AND BURIED IN FRANCE**

Pte. Ivan Henry Anderson, of The Essex Scottish Regiment, who was previously reported missing, is now officially announced to have been killed in action in France on July twenty-first.

Pte. Anderson is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Anderson, East Main St., Welland, Ont., formerly of Cobden, Ont., where Ivan was born, and received his education there, Pembroke and Kirkland Lake, from where he enlisted in Sept., 1942 with the 48th. Highlanders. He trained in Toronto, Brantford and Camp Borden for six months and went overseas on March 2nd. on his nineteenth birthday, and later transferred to the Essex Scottish.

He attended United Church and Sunday school, and in his last letter to his mother he told her not to worry. He said his prayers every night and thought about every one at home most of the time and didn't think his name was on any of Jerry's bullets, but in the battle where he gave his life, his Padre wrote in his message of sympathy that it was the fiercest and most bitter fighting they had ever seen. He also said "Your lad did a good job here in France and soldiered well. He did a man's job and did it at all times." His grave is on a hill beside his comrades who also fell south of "Ifs" near Caen. 36

Left to mourn his loss besides his parents are three brothers, Lyndsay and Allen of Welland, Ont, Lyall of Kirkland Lake and one sister Ora, (Mrs. Geo. Gardiner) whose husband is with the R.C.A.F. on the East coast.

Lyall enlisted and served in the R.C.A.F. for some time and Allan in the R.C.A.S.C., both have been honorably discharged.

Official letter received by Mr. and Mrs. Anderson.

H/Capt. J. Cardy, Padre. (P)
Essex Scottish Regt.,
Aug. 15th./44. Can. A. O.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Anderson:

You will already have been notified by Military Headquarters, that your son (B-133112) Pte. Ivan Henry Anderson, previously reported missing on July the twenty-first is known to have died on that date.

The battle on the twenty-first was as fierce and bitter fighting as any we have ever saw, and for some time it was not possible to make a thorough search of the area where the companies had fought. At the first opportunity I took with me a party of men from each company and this check was made.

Your son's body was found and his comrades stood around his grave in respectful tribute to him-as we committed his soul to God. Your lad did a good job here in France and soldiered well. He did a man's job and did it at all times. His grave is on a hill beside his comrades who also fell south of "Ifs", near Caen.

May I offer my deep sympathy to you in your loss.

I remain,
Yours very truly,
Joseph Cardy.
H/Capt. Padre. (P)

Image 3: Death notice⁴



Image 4: Gravestone of Pte. Anderson⁵

In Memory Of
Private

IVAN HENRY ANDERSON

Service Number: B/133112

Essex Scottish Regiment, R.C.I.C. who died on 21 July 1944 Age 21

Son of John Thomas Anderson and Elizabeth Mary Anderson, of Toronto, Ontario.

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS

Remembered with Honour
BRETTEVILLE-SUR-LAIZE CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY
X.E. 8.

A photograph of a Commonwealth War Graves Commission certificate. It features a landscape image of a cemetery with rows of white headstones and a central monument. The text on the certificate reads: "COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES", "COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION".

Image 5: Commonwealth War Graves Commission Certificate⁶

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Of approximately 60 young men from Whitewater Region who lost their lives, at least 6 are buried in Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian Military Cemetery. Gerald Garnnar Bromley died four days later. Wesley Clayton Davidson died exactly one month later; and three men died on Aug 14, 1944 – Wm Thomas Blackmore, Warrington Thomas Foy and Kenneth George Thompson.

Sources:

1. Bennett, F. (2022). *Faysgenealogy.com*. www.faysgenealogy.com. family history database & images; 2001-present. Cobden, ON. (Original sources noted in database)
2. "Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947." . Digital images. Library and Archives Canada, Government of Canada. *Library and Archives Canada*. <https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?app=kia&IdNumber=555>
3. Viggers, Bonnie, *Photograph of Ivan Henry Anderson*, Bonnie Viggers Family Tree, Ancestry.ca; permission granted March 2023.
4. Killed in Action and Buried in France. newspaper article, *The Cobden Sun*, Sept 28, 1944 p. 5.
5. The Canadian Virtual War Memorial: Veterans Affairs Canada. "The Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM)." Database. Veterans Affairs Canada. [www.veterans.gc.ca/eng. https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2331443](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2331443)
6. CWGC. "Private Ivan Henry Anderson, War Casualty Details 2331443, CWGC. <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2331443/ivan-henry-anderson/>
7. *Private Ivan Henry Anderson (unknown-1944)* - Find A Grave Memorial, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56155361/ivan-henry->
8. Laye, Tim (2018, April 21). *Welland*. Ontario War Memorials: Welland. <http://ontariowarmemorials.blogspot.com/2018/04/welland.html>
9. Book of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=237&book=2&sort=pageAsc>

Additional information and photographs would be greatly appreciated.