

Anderson, Hugh Henry, Lieutenant



- Hugh Henry Anderson was born on 27 February 1921 in Chaudière Basin, Lévis, Québec. He was 24 years old when he was killed in action on 11 April 1945 in the Netherlands.
- He was single and had no children.
- On 29 July 1941, he enlisted for active service in Quebec City and sent for officer training in Brockville and Borden, Ontario. He was promoted to lieutenant on 28 March 1942. He was hospitalized due to pneumonia in 1942, and in 1943, he fractured a clavicle. While recovering from pneumonia, he was posted to the 30th Reconnaissance Regiment (the Essex Regiment (Tank) which later became The Windsor Regiment), which was training in Dundurn, Saskatchewan. On 23 June 1943, he was deployed to England and posted to the 1st Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Regiment. On 15 December 1944, he was transferred to north-west Europe from the UK, and a month later, he was posted as a reinforcement to the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment.
- Prior to enlisting, he served as a cadet captain at the Quebec City High School. He then served in the reserves with the 2nd Battalion Royal Rifles of Canada and briefly with the 17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars.
- Prior to enlisting, he was a student at McGill University, where he was enrolled in the C.O.T.C. contingent. He had completed two years in the arts program.
- According to his medical examination, he was 6 foot 2 inches tall and weighed 193 pounds. He had blue eyes and blond hair. He was found fit for category A.
- He is the son of Robert James Reekie Anderson and Violet Jessie Anderson, of Chaudière Basin, Province of Quebec. Hugh had a brother; Robert Duncan, who lived in Saint-Romuald, Lévis, Quebec.
- The sole beneficiary of Hugh's will was his mother.
- His body is buried in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands (Ref: X. G. 5.)(plot, row, grave)

Context

- On 11 April, "C" Squadron began their reconnaissance northwards from Deventer. In the afternoon they reached Raalte, the goal for that day. At about 7:30 p.m., Lt Anderson's No. 11 Troop advanced into Koestraat. The Troop was checking a bridge over the river, near the town of Wijhe, when it was ambushed by some 50 German paratroopers. Suddenly, at less than 15 metres, they saw two German soldiers with "Panzerfäuste"; shortly afterwards, the Panzerfäuste struck the left rear of his Staghound armoured car. A fire started and the ammunition exploded. The Canadians evacuated the vehicle, and a firefight with the Germans ensued. Anderson stood on the road firing his pistol at the Germans in the windows of the farm. Standing on the road, he gave cover to the others who had to leave the Staghound. When everyone was out of the car, a machine gun salvo sounded. There was a scream and Anderson fell, fatally struck. Then the fight broke out in full force. Van Dam's farm caught fire. After the battle, the troop returned to Raalte, without the Staghound and without Lieutenant Anderson.
- Anderson was initially buried on land in front of Van Dam's farm. A wooden cross was placed on the grave with Anderson's helmet and some flowering ribe branches. In 1946, Anderson was reburied at Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands. A letter and further personal effects from Anderson were later given to his family. The Koestraat near Wijhe was later renamed as "Lieutenant Andersonstraat". (Lieutenant Anderson Street).