

**Anderson, Basil Donald**

**Corporal**

**Argyll and Sutherland  
Highlanders (Princess  
Louise's)**

**Royal Canadian Infantry  
Corps**

**C39422**



Basil Donald Anderson was born November 25, 1921 in Regina, Saskatchewan. He was the son of Frederick Leslie Anderson, a carpenter, (1888-1946) and Blanche Agnes Mary Dawson (1900-1963). Donald had two brothers Desmond and Kenneth and a sister Ruth.

The family lived in Regina, Saskatchewan. for two years and then moved to Ottawa, Ontario, in 1923. The family lived at 539 Denbury Avenue in Westboro in the capital city. The family belonged to the Church of England. He attended Nepean High School and completed all four years of his junior matriculation.

At the time of his enlistment on October 6, 1941, Donald was employed as a clerk at E.B. Eddy Company paper mill in Hull, Quebec, for seven months. He had signed up with the reserve 51<sup>st</sup> Light Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) on August 12, 1940 and served with them until October 6, 1941 when he was discharged as a lance sergeant.

Joining the active forces then, he went for training at Ontario camps in Ottawa, Cornwall and Petawawa. He was a gunner and later promoted to bombardier with the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RCA.

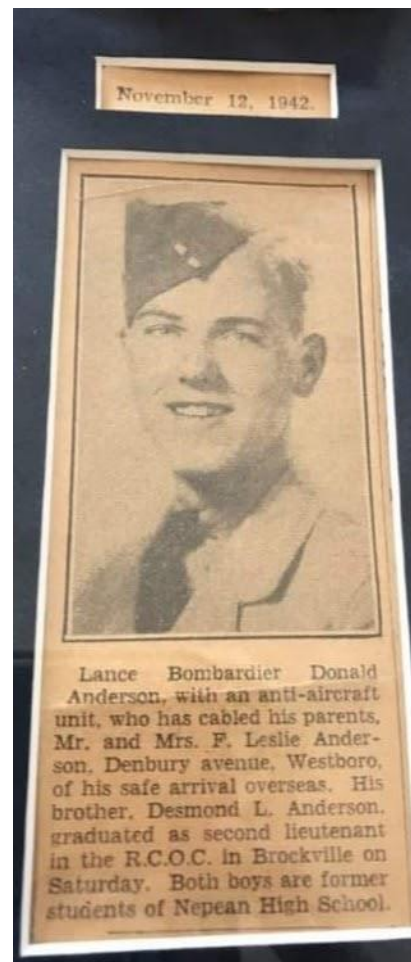
He qualified as a driver Class III (Motorcycle). In his medical report, he is listed as standing five feet and 11 inches tall and weighing 160 pounds. He had blue eyes and light brown hair.



His brother Desmond Anderson is shown at right with Donald and his mother, Blanche Anderson.

Desmond was a Captain in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps (RCOC) serving from 1939-1947, according to his 2008 obituary.

On October 27, 1942, Donald Anderson was shipped overseas to the United Kingdom where he was attached as a bombardier to the 6<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery. While he was in the U.K., he was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp.





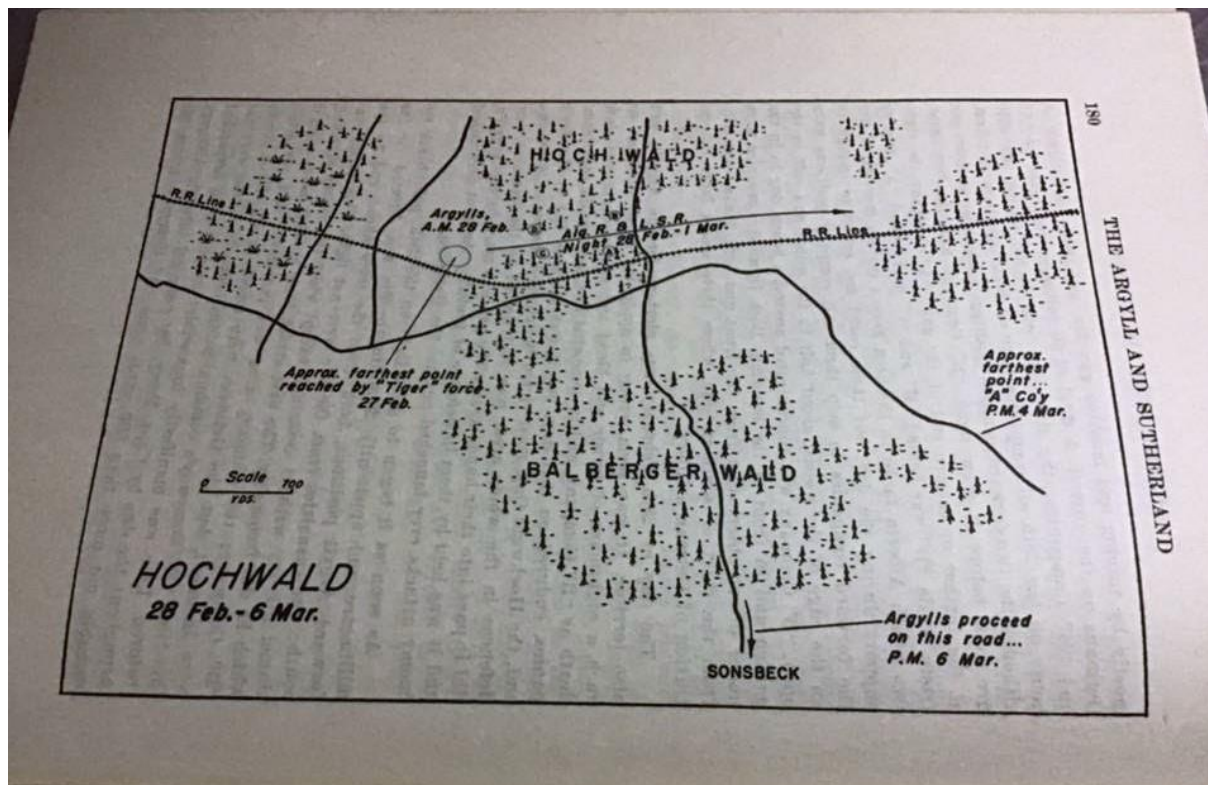
*A telegram he sent home sending Christmas wishes.*

On July 8, 1944, Bombardier Anderson went over to France for the Battle of Normandy with the 6<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

On December 3, 1944, he was promoted to Corporal and assigned to the Canadian Infantry Corps. It was on January 9, 1945 that he was again transferred but to an infantry unit, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's). Anderson took a non-commissioned officers' (NCO) course in the field.



The combined British and Canadian forces were pushing through the Hochwald Gap as part of the huge "Operation Blockbuster." The battle for the Hochwald Forest is considered one of the bloodiest battles of the war for Canadian troops.



Map of the Hochwald Forest from the Regimental History of the Argyls and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada.

Basil Donald Anderson, 23, was killed in action on March 7, 1945. He was temporarily buried in a battlefield cemetery at Xanten, Germany and was later moved to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery after the war had ended. Grave references are **IV. H. 12.**

The inscription on his headstone reads:

“Your knightly virtue proved, Your memory hallowed, In the land you loved.”

As many as eight soldiers from the Argyls were killed on March 7. All of the eight are buried at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery:

- Lieutenant J.A.C. Stewart      grave reference    XXV. E. 15.
- Sergeant A.A. Smith    V. B. 1.
- Corporal B.D. Anderson                                      IV. H. 12.
- Private D.H. Carter     V. B. 2.
- Private J.D.A. Forfar    IV. H. 15.
- Private J.E. Lusk    IV. D. 12.
- Private E.R. Smith    IV. B. 16.
- Private C. Vaise     IV. H. 16.

Due to his service to Canada, he was awarded a variety of medals including the 1939-1945 star, the France-Germany Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp.

His name is currently listed among the 48 names on a special Second World War Roll of Honour plaque at his alma mater, the Nepean High School in Ottawa, Ontario.

*Grave marker from the first days of the cemetery, later they were replaced by headstones and the inscription shown above was added.*



Biography: Joey Coulas, student from All Saints H.S., Kanata, Canada for Faces to Graves, courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz, teacher at All Saints H.S., additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.



**Sources:**

- \* Library and Archives Canada, WWII Service Files of War Dead, 1939-1947
  - \* Veterans Affairs Canada, The Canadian Virtual War Memorial
  - \* Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Casualty file
  - \* Nepean High School roll of honour plaque
- <https://sites.google.com/a/ocdsb.ca/nepean-hs-library/home/using-the-library/roll-of-honour>