

Anderson, Trueman William Albert
Lieutenant
6th Field Regiment
Royal Canadian Artillery



Trueman William Albert Anderson was born on the 21st of October 1916 in Barrie, a town in Mid-Western Ontario. Trueman was the son of Herbert and Maude Anderson from Dunedin Ontario. Trueman was named after his grandfather's William and Albert, but he was called Trueman to all his friends and family. Trueman's parents were having the Canadian nationality but were of Anglo Saxon heritage.

The Anderson family was Protestant and belonged to the United Church of Canada. Trueman was not a particularly religious man but attended church on Sundays with his family as was the social custom.



Trueman went to high school for 3 years, but he left school at the age of 18 years old. He did a Junior Matriculation and followed a mechanic apprenticeship at Jarvis Collegiate in Toronto. Which Trueman finished in 1932.

Trueman on the farm in Lavender, before the war.

Trueman got married on the 14th of September 1936 and his wife was named Hazel. Trueman and Hazel lived in Toronto. Trueman and Hazel had a little daughter, Valerie. Valerie was 4 years old when Trueman had to go overseas to war.

As a civil occupation, Trueman worked as truck driver and worked as salesman for Canada Dry Ginger Ale in Toronto from July 1932 till June 1939. After that he had a job as salesman for GoodRich Oil Co. LTD Part of Credit Ontario Oil refinery from June 1939 till June 1940.

When Trueman was fighting in the war, Valerie got sick with cancer. She died at the age of 6 years old. It's devastating, but Trueman received the news of Valerie's death while he was in the Netherlands after she had died and Trueman could not get home to Canada for her funeral.

Tara Newell in 2020, sharing the memories to Trueman of her grandmother Kathleen: *"Truemans mother Maude Anderson was the older sister of Margaret Bryce, who was my grandmother's mother. These two sibling families lived on farms next door to each other and they were very close. Therefore, my grandmother (Kathleen Hawkins, married name Newell) grew up with Trueman as a brother, not just as her first cousin.*

According to my grandmother, Trueman was an extraordinary pianist. He played for fun with family and friends at informal gatherings, but was also hired to play at parties and events. My grandmother remembers him "pounding on the keys with his leg swinging to the music". He sang along as well, but "his singing was not as impressive as his piano playing" my grandmother joked.

Trueman was well liked by everyone and he was always the life of any party, and he really enjoyed a good party. He was not only an amazing pianist but a great dancer as well. My grandmother remembers Trueman as a real "ladies man"; very handsome, charming, outgoing, fun (always laughing and joking around), which had women swooning over him all the time.

My grandmother, named her own daughter Valerie, after Trueman's daughter Valerie."

Trueman and his 1st cousin Kathleen before the war.



Trueman enlisted for army service on the 1st of July 1940 in Toronto at the #2 District Depot as a gunner. He was added to 5th Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery and received the service number B6407.

1 HQ File No.		INDEX CARDS MADE															OFFICERS INFORMATION CARD										2 DATE COMPLETED													
3 NAME (SEE BACK LETTERS)		ANDERSON TRUEMAN WILLIAM ALBERT															4 RANK					5 UNIT					11 th FEB. 44													
7 RESIDENT HOME ADDRESS		809 MILLWOOD RD. TORONTO ONT.															LIEUTENANT					R.C.A.					16 PRESENT EMPLOYMENT & LOCATION													
10 DATE OF BIRTH		21 st OCT 15					11 PLACE OF BIRTH					BARRIE ONT.					12 NATIONALITY					CANADIAN		13 ADAPT'Y TAG		18 DECORATIONS														
14 TOTAL COMMERCE'S SERVICE		15 DATE OF APPOINT TO A.P.					5 th FEB 44					16 RANK (MILITIA)					17 UNIT OR CORPS (MILITIA)					A		C.V.S.M. AND CLASS																
18 YOS		95															Comm. U.K. 5 Feb 44										(SIGNATURE OF OFFICER)													
19 SCHOOL		20 No. of Years					21 NAME OF INSTITUTION					22 COURSES OR SUBJECTS					23 GRADUATED		24 DEGREE OR DIPLOMA		25 YEARS FINISHED		26 PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS		27 HOBBIES (see 2056)															
High School		2					JANIS COLLEGIATE					JR. MATHS SR. MATHS					No		X X X X X		1932																			
Coll. or Univ.																																								
Post Grad.																																								
28 NAME OF FIRM (Less three)		29 LOCATION					30 NATURE OF BUSINESS OR PROFESSION					31 EMPLOYED FROM		32 TO		33 POSITIONS HELD (Mention major responsibilities)																								
1		Good Rich Oil Co. Ltd.					PORT CREDIT ONT. OIL REFINERY					June 39		JUNE 40		SALESMAN																								
2		CANADA DAY GINGERALE					TORONTO ONT. GINGERALE MFGS.					July 32		JUNE 37		DRIVING SALESMAN																								
3																																								
33 Spoken		English					French					German					Russian					Spanish					OTHER					34 MARITAL STATUS		35 RELIGION (Indic. Other specify)		36 RACIAL ORIGIN		37 SPECIAL SERVICE OR APPOINTMENTS		
Written																											Single		Married		Anglo		Fr		Saxon		Can			
Translator																						Widower		No. of Dependents		Other														
28		SERVICE SCHOOLS AND COURSES										39 WAR AND MILITARY SERVICE										40 STAFF EMPLOYMENT OF COMMAND (SEE 37)																		
YEAR		MONTHS		SCHOOL		COURSE				GRADE		YEAR		MONTHS		SERVICE		YEAR		MONTHS		LOCATION		APPOINTMENT																
1943		2		C.T.S.		ARMY & NAVY COURSE				C.P.		1944		38		PUBLICIST WAR (OFFICER ONLY) (GREAT WAR (ANY SERVICE))		400		1944		I.C.A.P.U.		INSTRUCTOR																
1944		6		1230 S.H.		FAR. ARTY.				C						PF OFFICER																								
1944		3		G.P.O.'s, PA & Med.		#C-4				G.						PF OTHER RANK																								
																NPAM or RF OFFICER (O.I.C.)																								
																OTHER (Specify)		C.A.P.O.R.T.M.																						

NOTE.—HOBBIES SHOULD INCLUDE ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT HAVE AN APPLICATION IN WARTIME, E.G., TRAINING DOGS, PIGEONS, ETC. OR ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY

Trueman's information in his service records.

Source: Library and Archives Canada

At the time of his enlistment, Trueman was around 5ft8" tall and weighed around 142 pounds. He had black hair, brown eyes and his complexion was dark. Trueman was a well developed young man.



Trueman with army buddies, at middle right. Date unknown.



In July 1940 Trueman was sent to a course at the Royal Canadian Artillery Training Centre in Petawawa as a Gunner. On the 12th of October he qualified himself as Gun Position Officer Assistant and Rangetaker.

Trueman in Toronto before departure overseas, date unknown.

On the 13th of December 1940 Trueman embarked in Halifax, to arrive in Gourock Scotland on the 26th of December. He was taken on strength with the 1st Canadian Artillery Holding Unit.

In 1941, on the 21st of June Trueman gets qualified as a Sergeant Instructor. And on the 1st of July he is promoted to Lance Sergeant. Starting as Acting Sergeant on the 19th of September 1941.

Trueman is taken on strength with the 5th Field Regiment on the 17th of October 1941. Where he is confirmed as Sergeant on the 1st of January 1942. On the 5th of January he is posted to the Canadian Army Reinforcement Unit, permanently employed as Sergeant Instructor.

Trueman starts his training as an officer on the 21st of June 1943 when he is attached to the Pre. Officers Cadet Training Unit School in Ilkley United Kingdom. He completed the course 6th of February 1944. As per the 7th of February 1944, Trueman is promoted to Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Artillery.

On the 1st of October Trueman embarks in the United Kingdom and arrives in France on the 2nd of October 1944. On the 13th of October Trueman is added to the 12th Battalion of the 6th Field Regiment.

In February 1945 the Royal Artillery played a crucial role in the start of Operation Veritable. The artillery support had been planned as a battle-winning factor. Trueman is also part of this role with the 6th Field division as part of the 2nd Canadian Division (under British XXX Corps).

Trueman on leave, date unknown.





Life story Kim Huvenaars, Research Team Faces To Graves.

Source(s):

Tara Newell for the pictures and memories of Trueman.

Library and Archives Canada

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

heritage.canadiana.ca

Trueman is commemorated on the Cenotaph in Barrie.



Picture taken by Laura Joy.