

Anger, Carl Leslie
Private
Highland Light Infantry of Canada
Royal Canadian Infantry Corps
A 11952



Carl Anger was born on October 14, 1923, in Neustadt, Ontario. He was the second son of a family of three children. Father John Isaac was born in Howick, Ontario, Canada and was CNR Section Head in Palmerston, Canada. He married Mary Isabell McGee in Bluevale, Ontario. Mother had already passed away in April 1941. The family then lived in Listowel, Ontario, was a member of the United Church of Canada and spoke English. Walter Edward was Carl's brother, later a Private and Military Bandsman at Woodstock, Ontario, a military camp. His only sister was F.G. (Ruby); she married Mr. Anderson.

Neustadt was originally a German settlement in Ontario. At the time, Listowel was a small self-governing community in southwestern Ontario. In 1998, it merged with other communities into North Perth in Perth County, southern Canada.

As a child, Carl moved with his parents from Southampton and Atwood to Listowel, where they lived around 1930. Carl attended Public School until he was sixteen.





He then worked as a cabinet maker at Malcolm Furniture Factory in Listowel. This furniture factory made high-quality antique furniture for hotels. During World War II, they made Mosquito Bomber

parts. Transport was by rail. In 1976 the factory was closed. Carl worked here for a few years, but when he started working, he was unemployed.

After the war, Carl wanted to create a small vegetable nursery or become a car mechanic.

On April 4, 1941, Carl was enrolled in the army in Stratford with the Perth Regiment. This was an infantry regiment of volunteers, who trained a lot, but usually had a job. They soon left for England to defend the coast. During the Second World War, 261 Perths were killed.

His registration form stated that Carl was born on October 14, 1921, but that should have been 1923. He was probably still too young for the army and gave an incorrect date of birth. He would likely have wanted to join the army; he had no job, and his mother had already died.

Furthermore, the April 4, 1941 report stated that Carl had a dark appearance with hazel eyes and light hair. He was a well-developed young man who was actually only seventeen years old. Carl was 5 ft 9 ¼ tall and weighed 150 lbs.

From May 7, 1941, Carl was in Camp Borden for training. From August 28 to September 8, 1941, he participated in the Canadian National Exhibition, a military display of army vehicles by the Ford Motor Company. Soon after, Carl embarked with the Perth Regiment for Liverpool, UK. They set sail on ship 304 from Halifax, Nova Scotia, arriving in Liverpool on October 19, 1941. In the following months, Carl was on leave several times. Finally, on June 15, 1942, he was punished with 168 hours of detention and received no pay for seven days. Through the 3rd Division Infantry Reinforcement Unit, Carl was assigned to the Highland Light Infantry of Canada on October 30, 1942.

The HLI was a light infantry element of the Canadian Army, mobilized in November 1940 for active service in the war.

In December 1943, Carl got permission to marry Vera Joan Clipsham from Yarwell, Northampton, England. Vera was born on October 20, 1921, in Yarwell, England. Shortly before their marriage, their son Christopher Sidney was born on September 11, 1943. Although Carl and Vera married on December 25, 1943, they had known each other for two years.

Carl was rewarded for two years of army service and was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp on January 15, 1944. Then it became time to go to war in Western Europe. On June 4, 1944, Carl left for France to participate in D-Day, the major invasion of the Allies in Bernières-Sur-Mer in France, on June 6, 1944. Fierce fighting ensued, with many wounded and killed on both sides. A grenade seriously injured Carl on July 8 during the Battle of Buron. He had bullet wounds and mortar shrapnel wounds in both legs and returned to England for six weeks for treatment at 21 Canadian General Hospital. He was in hospital until July 29 and then remained in England for a few weeks for further recovery. As of July 30, he was temporarily with the Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit. However, it was not until August 28 that he reported back to France with the Highland Light Infantry of Canada. Via Belgium, they advanced further toward the Netherlands and Germany.



H.L.I. troops wait for the order to advance somewhere near Breskens, Holland
<https://pipesforfreedom.com>

Around November 11, 1944, the HLI was on its way to the Dutch-German border; on a ridge between Nijmegen and Arnhem, they took positions on the cold, wet earth. Shelters were constructed in the ground as if they were badgers or moles, and torn pieces of nylon

fabric (from the abandoned American airborne gliders) served as a roof for their shelters. Before them, they saw a depressing no man's land of shell holes and water, decayed gliders in the landscape, and the occasional house or barn destroyed by the war. The months in the 'Waal Flats' were a dull, cold, and miserable experience. Nevertheless, they stayed here until the new offensive in February.

Operation Veritable began on February 8, 1945, with the 3rd Canadian Division and three British divisions advancing across the flooded left bank of the Waal. The ancient city of Kleve was bombarded, and the war's

heaviest artillery bombardment fell on the enemy positions. The Materborn Gap was the key to the success of the offensive; it is 3,300 meters of open terrain and stretches from Kleve and the forests of the Hochwald to the south. On February 10, 1945, the HLI arrived at the assembly point around Keeken; their first objective after that was to capture Duffelward. The attack started at 6:30 pm, and the HLI advanced until stopped by enemy machine gun fire just outside Duffelward in the only access area to the village. Here they burrowed for the night.

The following day, February 11, 1945, the HLI advanced to Duffelward, captured the village, and in the afternoon, they occupied Wardhausen. Then, together with the Stormont, Dunas & Glengarry Highlanders, they liberated the entire area up to and including the Spoy Canal in the evening.

Many people were killed and wounded again during this heavy fighting under challenging conditions—wet, cold, and bad roads in the Battle of the Rhineland. Carl was also a victim during one of the last battles in this terrible war. With his company on their way to Duffelward, they came under heavy machine gun fire, and Carl was also mortally wounded.

Carl Leslie Anger died on this dark day; it was February 11, 1945, and he was only twenty-one. Carl left behind his wife Vera and son Cris and his family. Carl, and many of his comrades, were first buried in the temporary military cemetery in Nijmegen, plot 1, row 5, grave 16.

On 6 August 1945, Carl was reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave **1. F. 13**.



Photo of the grave, as it was in those first days, in 1954 the crosses were replaced by headstones. The family could add a personal inscription.



Photo: Faces to Graves

Text on his tombstone:

"GREATER LOVE
HATH NO MAN THAN THIS"
EVER REMEMBERED
JOAN AND CRIS

Carl received the following awards:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defense Medal
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp

These medals and the Memorial Cross were sent to his wife, Vera Joan, in Yarwell.



Life story: Liesbeth Huisman-Arts, Research Team Faces To Graves.

*If you have a photo of this soldier or additional information, please get in touch with info@facestograves.nl

Source reference:

Canadian War Graves Commission
Library and Archives Canada
Veterans.gc.ca

Steve Anger (Steve is the son of Norman Anger, eldest cousin of Carl)
War Diaries Highland Light Infantry of Canada

The image shows two documents side-by-side. The left document is a form titled '(1) SOLDIER'S NAME AND DESCRIPTION ON ATTESTATION'. It contains the following handwritten information: Regt No. A-11952; Service (in capitals) ANGER; Christian Names (in full) Carl Leslie; Date of Birth 14 Oct 21; Place of Birth Thurston, Ontario, Canada; Trade on Enlistment Firearm Worker; Nationality of Father at birth Scotch; Nationality of Mother at birth Irish; Religion United Church; Enlisted at London, Ontario, Canada; Date 2 Apr 41; Particulars of former service (if any) Lt. Col. and period. 1914-1918; Signature of Soldier C. J. Anger; Signature of Officer R. J. [unclear]; Place 744; Date 2 Aug 44. The right document is the cover of a 'MILITIA BOOK NO. 1' dated 407 2 3027, titled 'CANADIAN MILITIA SOLDIER'S SERVICE AND PAY BOOK'.

Carl's wife, Vera Joan, wanted to emigrate to Canada with her son Cris after the death of her husband, Carl. This did not work right away at first. Carl's father, John, started looking for a place to live for her because only then could she come over. Carl's sister, Ruby, wrote to the army command that Vera and her son could live with her in her apartment for as long as possible. Vera eventually took up residence on Wallace Street in Listowel, Ontario, close to her in-laws. (see letter)

The image shows a letter from the Department of Mines and Resources, Immigration Branch, Ottawa, dated March 14th, 1945. The letter is addressed to the Commissioner in London, England. It is a 'FERRY DESPATCH' and is a copy to Colonel Ellis. The letter number is 783554. The subject is 'Re: Your File 19-4-3478'. The text of the letter states: 'Settlement arrangements are satisfactory for Mrs. Vera Anger and child of "Angel Inn", Yarwell, Northants, dependents of Pte. Carl Anger, A.11952. Her sister-in-law, Mrs. P. G. Anderson of Wallace St., Listowel, Ontario, states that her father is a widower and as soon as he knows definitely that his daughter-in-law is coming forward he is going to get a home for her. In the meantime, she will reside with Mrs. Anderson who has assured the Department she has ample accommodation for her in her four-roomed apartment.' The letter is signed by the Director.



Cenotaph in Listowel, Ontario.



In 2017, Steve Anger and his father, Norman, visited the grave of their cousin Carl in Groesbeek (photo). Norman is Carl's eldest cousin.

PTE. LESLIE ANGER
 By Record Correspondent
LISTOWEL, Feb. 23.—Pte. Leslie Carl Anger, 21-year-old son of John Anger, C.N.R. sectionman formerly of Listowel but now employed at Palmerston, has been killed in action. No details were given in the message, which stated that further word would come direct from the unit in the theatre of war.

The young lad enlisted with the Perth Regiment at Stratford in 1941, going overseas later that year. Transferred to another unit, he took part in the invasion of France and on July 9, 1944 was severely wounded. His injuries were described as gunshot wounds in both legs. After some time spent in hospital in England, he was able to rejoin his unit in France and later saw action in Belgium and more recently in Holland.

A native of Neustadt, he was born Oct. 14, 1923 and when a child moved with his parents to Southampton and Atwood before coming to Listowel to reside about 11 years ago. After he finished his schooling, he was employed for a time at Malcolm Furniture factory, but just prior to enlistment had been employed in Southampton.

Besides his father, Pte. Anger is survived by an English wife, whom he married in December, 1943, and an infant son; one sister, Mrs. F. G. Anderson, Listowel and one brother, Pte. Walter Anger, a military handsman stationed at Woodstock. His mother predeceased him several years ago. Feb 23/45

According to Steve, Cris, Carl's son, lives in Alberta with his wife, Betty.