

Hainer, Laurence Jack

Trooper

1st Hussars, 6th Armoured Regiment

Royal Canadian

Armoured Corps

A/108752



Laurence ("Larry") Jack Hainer was born 19 June 1916 at Wallaceburg in southwestern Ontario (ON). His parents John Franklin Hainer and Florence Maud Ryckman, both of English descent, were married at Blenheim, ON in 1911. Frank and Larry were their first two children, with Frank sadly dying age six in 1919, leaving Larry as the eldest. The Anglican couple then had five more offspring: Evelyn, Kenneth, Willard, Eldon and later Robert. Their father John worked as a cooper (barrel maker) for Brunner and Mond Chemical Company.



Florence Maud Ryckman Hainer

Larry attended Central Public School in Wallaceburg for his primary education. He played softball and some hockey as a boy. Larry went to Wallaceburg High School for a year, which included cadet training. He worked part time at the local bowling alley and spent a season at a cannery. Larry left school age fifteen to work full time, learning the cooper trade from his father and helping him at his workplace. He was also a farm labourer plus worked at sugar plant in Wallaceburg.



Larry married Marie Margaret Shaw at Windsor, ON March 1939 and they soon had their first child Julie Anne. They moved to Amherstburg, ON where

Mayor Heads Big Bakery

IN AMHERSTBURG

Marra's Bread, Limited, in Handsome Building

AMHERSTBURG, July 26.—The citizen who is mayor of this historic South Essex town is also head of one of the most modernly equipped bakeries in Canada and which serves most of Western Ontario. This is N. A. Marra.

The home of Marra's Bread, Limited, occupies a handsome red building which is a block long and half a block wide in the town. The bakery limits its operations to wholesale selling only. The company sells to practically every store in the Western Ontario area. Depots are maintained in London and Chatham. The year round more than 60 employes are on the staff of the company.

Constant remodeling and the introduction of the latest bakery equipment ensures the bakery being one of the finest equipped in the Dominion. In fact, state officials of the company, the introduction of the newest machinery is a vital necessity in order to compete for business in a highly competitive market. All equipment is spotlessly white and much money, company officials point out, is spent to so maintain the equipment in the plant.

Operations of Marra's Bread, Limited, are limited almost exclusively to the production of one quality of bread sold under the trade name of "Snowwhite." Every effort of the company is directed to making this bread the finest produced as far as quality is concerned. The greatest care is taken in the selection of the ingredients and only the finest are employed. The whole policy of the company is designed toward the production of a bread which is exactly what its trade name indicates, "Snowwhite."

The company also manufactures a raisin bread although "Snowwhite" is the chief product.

Mr. Marra, president of the company, has been in the bakery business for approximately 20 years. He has headed the present company since 1934.

service. Marie gave birth to their second child Larry Jack Junior later that month and Larry Senior was given leave time to return home to meet his infant son that summer plus spend time with his daughter and wife.

Camp Borden, ON WW2

Larry worked two years for a florist. He then got a better paying job as a baker with Marra's Bread in Amherstburg, averaging \$51.50 weekly earnings.

Windsor Star July 1941

Larry decided to join the Canadian Army, attesting at London, ON 3 November 1943 age 27. He was then 5'8" tall, 130 lbs with blue eyes. The Army Examiner commented about Larry: "A slim young man with high learning ability and high mechanical aptitude. Says he has tinkered with tools and electrical repairs since he was small but never had much to do with cars because he could never afford one. Long job history is a reflection of his ambition to improve his occupational status. Owns many tools of his own. Very ready talker and quite sincere. Should be a hard worker and do well in C.A.C. (Canadian Armoured Corps) with which allocation he is perfectly satisfied. May possibly develop into N.C.O. (Non Commissioned Officer) material in training".

Larry completed his basic training at Brampton, ON and received a positive progress report dated 19 January 1944: "This man is very highly recommended by his training officer and makes an excellent impression on interview. He is keen, alert and decisive in his replies. He is rated as the top man in the troop for conduct, attitude and training record. He is a morale builder of superior ability and is recommended for consideration as a Gunner-Operator".

Larry joined the C.A.C. Training Regiment at Camp Borden, ON 25 January 1944. He qualified as Gunner Operator Group "C" 17 June 1944 and was cleared for overseas



Larry disembarked in the UK 10 August 1944 where he reported to the C.A.C. Reinforcement Unit. He remained in the UK until after the war ended in Europe and avoided the fate of many others who were remustered to Infantry. Larry was finally sent to Northwest Europe where he was taken on strength by the 1st Hussars, 6 Canadian Armoured Regiment (6CAR) 31 May 1945 as a replacement soldier as part of their plan to discharge veterans.

The 1st Hussars formed part of 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade along with the Fort Garry Horse (10th Armoured Regiment) and the Sherbrooke Fusiliers (27th Armoured Regiment). 6CAR supported 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade on D-Day to establish a beach head at Courseulles-sur-Mer, France. 6CAR participated in the capture of Caen in July, followed by the Battle of Verrières Ridge. The Allies forced the Germans retreat from Normandy that summer and the 1st Hussars helped clear Channel ports in September. 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade had limited involvement in the Battle of the Scheldt that fall due to the wet ground conditions in Belgium and the Netherlands.

The 1st Hussars had participated in Operation BLOCKBUSTER in the Rhineland during the February Allied advance and helped liberate Apeldoorn, Netherlands in April 1945.



Apeldoorn, Netherlands Liberation Parade April 1945

The 1st Hussars were stationed near Groningen, Netherlands 21 June 1945. An Ammunitions Examiner at the Infantry Barracks Eclipse Dump had identified a pair French "R" (railway) mines that were too dangerous to transport with the other foreign munitions material. He arranged storage for them in a brick and concrete building without any warning signs. The building exploded around 1100 hours that day, killing Troopers Hainer and Clark of the 1st Hussars. A Court of Inquiry was struck to investigate their deaths. They were unable to determine what caused the detonation of the unstable mines. Troopers Hainer and Clark were not on guard duty and their deaths were ruled to be accidental. Larry Hainer died on that date age 29.

REPORT OF THE COURT

1. Since Trooper HAINER and Trooper CLARK were at the dump and have not been seen since, it is assumed that they were the two bodies found in the debris.
2. Neither man was on duty at the time of the accident.
3. S sjt COOKE, 5 Div Ammunition Examiner held that the mines were in a dangerous enough condition so that he would not permit them to be transported by vehicle.
4. A Sqn guard was not warned of the presence of the mines. Trooper HAINER and Trooper CLARK could not have possibly come upon the mines accidentally on entering the building.

Signed this 28th day of JUNE, 1945 in the field.

C.H. Graham
(C.H. GRAHAM) Captain President
6 Cdn Armd Regt (1H)

R.A. Daly Lt
(R.A. DALY) Lieut Member
6 Cdn Armd Regt (1H)

J.W. West Lt
(J.W. WEST) Lieut Member
6 Cdn Armd Regt (1H)

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FINDING

It is felt that although the two bodies were unrecognizable, they were definitely those of B144257 Trooper CLARK G D and A108752 Trooper HAINER L J.

While not actually manning a post at the time of death, they were still on duty as their tour of duty was for 24 hours, during which time they were not allowed to leave the area.

The cause of death can be attributed to the detonation of the two "R" mines but the cause of their detonation will never definitely be known.

It is recommended that for record purposes, death be shown as "Accidental - Whilst on Active Service".

W.D. Brooks Major
(W.D. BROOKS) Commanding Officer
6 Cdn Armd Regt (First Hussars)

I concur in the CO's remarks. In my opinion Troopers CLARK and HAINER were on duty at the time of the explosion in accordance with KR Can 641, however it is impossible to state whether these soldiers were or were not negligent.

G.S. Ross
(G.S. Ross) Brig
CRA 5 Cdn Armd Div

9th July, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Hainer:

It was with deep regret that I learned of the death of your husband, A108752 Trooper Lawrence Jack Hainer, who died while in the Service of his Country in the Western European Theatre of War, on the 21st day of June, 1945.

You may be assured that any additional information received will be communicated to you without delay.

The Minister of National Defence and the Members of the Army Council have asked me to express to you and your family their sincere sympathy in your bereavement.

Yours sincerely,

MINISTER'S CONDOLENCE
JUL 10 1945
CARD DESPATCHED

(A.E. Walford),
Major-General,
Adjutant-General.

Mrs. Marie M. Hainer,
104 Park Street,
Amherstburg, Ontario.

/EMH

Canadian Armored Corps
CAMPBELL, (M.M.), Lewis J., Sgt.,
Owen Sound.
HAINER, Lawrence J., Tpr., Mrs. Marie
M. Hainer (wife), 104 Park street,
Amherstburg.

Windsor Star July 1945

C O P Y

AMHERSTBURG, Ontario.
August 21, 1945.

Dear Sir:

I received a telegram July 6th informing me my husband had died overseas on June 21st. I cannot believe it yet and am still hoping there is a mistake, but thought I had better write and let you know why you had no answer from me before.

I am terribly upset yet and would appreciate it very much if you would fix this up for me. Am enclosing your whole letter you sent me June 28th.

Thanking you very much.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Mrs. Larry Hainer
104 Park Street,
Amherstburg, Ont.

405-H-26139
D. R. 2 (B)

29th October, 1945.

Mrs. F. Hainer,
R.R. #3,
Mount Brydges, Ontario.

Dear Mrs. Hainer:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th instant concerning the death of your son, A.108752 Trooper Lawrence Jack Hainer.

I deeply regret to inform you that your late son died on the 21st day of June, 1945, the cause of his death being due to the detonation of two French railway lines.

Your request for a copy of your late son's Will has been referred to the Section concerned from whom you will hear direct in this regard.

Yours truly,

(C.L. Laurin) Colonel,
Director of Records,
for Adjutant-General.

CR/EMD



Trooper L.J. Hainer was temporarily buried at Groningen, Netherlands and later relocated to Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **VI. B. 16**.

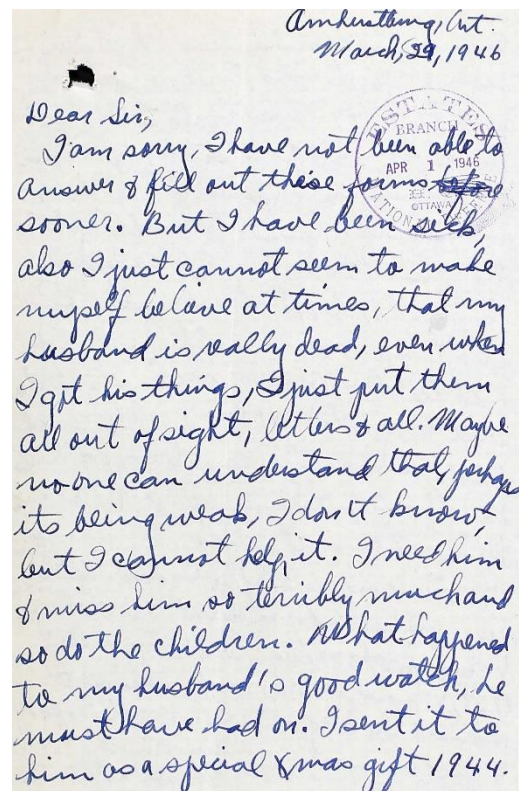
Photo Credit lestweforget1945.com

Larry Hainer's campaign medals:

- 1939-45 Star
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal/Clasp

Memorial Crosses were sent to both Larry Hainer's mother Florence and wife Marie.

Marie Hainer wrote follow-up letters to the Canadian Army as she struggled to accept her husband Larry's death and raise their two young children on her own.



Biography by Jim Little, Research Team Faces to Graves.

Sources Consulted:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

Veteran Affairs Canada – Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Ancestry public trees

Newspapers.com

Laurence Jack Hainer information <https://www.gatheringourheroes.ca/hero/hainer-lawrence-jack/>

Central Public School, Wallaceburg, ON image
<https://swoda.uwindsor.ca/node/3161>

Camp Borden, ON tank picture <https://www.ontrmuseum.ca/tankmuseum/blog-post/ontr-tanks-of-second-world-war/>

1st Hussars Regimental information and photos <https://sharrob56.wixsite.com/first-hussars-wwii/blank-1>

1st Hussars cap badge picture <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/official-military-history-lineages/lineages/armour-regiments/1st-hussars.html>

1st Hussars battle information https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Hussars

Julian Matheson, 1st Hussars Museum <https://www.first-hussars.ca/>

Apeldoorn, Netherland Liberation Parade photo
<https://museum.48thhighlanders.ca/item/appeldorn-1945/>

* Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact info@facestograves.nl