

CORMIER, Lawrence Joseph

Born 15 May 1921 St John NB, son of Olive Cormier. Discharged Jan 12 1943 Fredericton NB, died 13 Apr 2003 and buried Pinegrove Cemetery Norland.

Served as a Private, **WW2 Gunner G13239**. Newspaper article indicates he was injured June 28 1942 at Hann's Point, a coast defence station in Newfoundland. At that time his next-of-kin, mother Olive was living at 155 Market Place West St John NB.

Married to Marjorie GANONG. Daughter Rose

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

CORMIER

LAWRENCE
CORMIER
MAY 15, 1921
APR. 13, 2003



MARJORIE
GANONG
DEC. 23, 1922
JUNE 22, 1997

WWII VETERAN
G13239

DESCENDANT OF
GANONG CHOCOLATES





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STATEMENT OF SERVICE

IN THE

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

Name *Lawrence Joseph CORMIER*

Service Rank and/or Number *G-13239*

1. Branch of Service: *Canadian Army (Active)*

2. Date and Place of Birth: *May 15, 1921* *Saint John, N.B.*

3. Date and Place of Appointment, Enlistment or Enrolment: *July 24, 1941* *Saint John, N.B.*

4. Theatres of Service: *Canada and Newfoundland.*

5. Date and Place of Retirement or Discharge: *January 12, 1943* *Fredericton, N.B.*

6. Type of Retirement or Discharge: *Honourable*

7. Rank on Retirement or Discharge: *Private*

8. Medals and Decorations: *Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp and War Medal 1939-45.*

9. Remarks: *Nil*

Date *November 12, 1974*

L. Barnes

Headquarters Records Centres Division
Records Management Branch

Four Men Die In Dynamite Blast

OTTAWA, June 28 (CP) — Four men were killed, six were seriously injured and 13 slightly injured in last Thursday's explosion at a coast defence station in Newfoundland, National Defence headquarters announced Saturday.

"The reports indicate that the explosion was caused by dynamite being used in construction work by the contractor and which was stored at the camp," a Defence Department statement said.

"There is nothing in the information received so far to indicate that the occurrence was other than accidental, but a full investigation is being held.

Definite location of the blast has not been given out but it occurred at an army installation.

ARMY CASUALTIES

The original report of the blast last Thursday said injury resulted to "army and contractors' personnel but Army spokesmen and today the military personnel were the only ones to suffer injury and that the first report apparently was in error.

All the casualties among army personnel were members of the Royal Canadian Artillery, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals and a central Ontario regiment on duty at the Canadian station.

Nine of the men are Maritimers, 10 are from Ontario, two from Quebec, one from Manitoba and one from the United States.

Issuance of the casualty list was delayed pending notification of next of kin.

Following is the list of casualties with official numbers and next of kin:

OVERSEAS

Killed (accidental):

Royal Canadian Artillery: Bennett, George Gordon, Gnr., G13128 Mrs. Nettie Bennett (mother) R. R. No. 2, Fairville, N. B.

McIntosh, Douglas Gnr., F24422, Mrs. Sarah McIntosh (mother) 7 Passchendaele, Glace Bay, N. S.

Walker, John Fairweather, L. Bdr. G13127, Mrs. Mery Walker (Mother) Meductic, York County, N. B.

Central Ontario Regiment—Flamain, Philip Charles, Pte., B54941, Mrs. Honorine Flamain (mother) 8 Marion St. Ansonville, Ont.

Seriously injured (accidental).

Royal Canadian Artillery—Mears, Ronald John, Gnr. A21948, Mrs. Mildred Winnifred Mears (wife) 583 Tecumseh Road, Windsor, Ont.

Meisner, Bernard Harvey Gnr.

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Meisner, Bernard Harvey, Gnr., F28743, Mrs. Maude Meisner, (mother) Bridgewater, N. S.

Michael, John Atwood, Bdr., A4424, Clyde Elmer Michael (father) 5949 Cabanne Place, St. Louis, Mo.

Central Ontario Regiment—Lacourse, Armas Joseph, Pte., B54848, Mrs. Mary Lacourse (mother) 87 1-2 Windsor Ave., Timmins, Ont.

Lemieux, Leonard J. J., Pte., B54850, Mrs. Rose Lemieux (mother) 71 Maple St., Timmins, Ont.

McAuley, Gerald Phillip, Pte., B54778, Mrs. Rossetta McAuley, (mother) Phantagenet, Ont.

Slightly injured (accidental):

Royal Canadian Artillery—Cairns, Harding, Robert, Gnr., G12018, Mrs. Mildred Cairns (mother) 180 Duke St. West Saint John, N. B.

Cormier, Lawrence Joseph, Gnr., G13239, Mrs. Olive Cormier (mother) 155 Market Place, West Saint John, N. B.

Brady, Bernard Gerard, Gnr., P4547, Mrs. Kathlene Brady (mother) 6 Stairs Place, Halifax.

Emiry, Melvin Lloyd, Bdr., F2608, Mrs. Alice D. Emiry (mother) Massie Station, Ont.,

LeBlanc, Lawrence Marshal, L. Bdr. F11256, Mrs. Mary LeBlanc (mother) Pond St., Florence, N. S.

Roberts, Mellick, John, Gnr., G13242 Mrs. Monica Roberts (mother) Frontenelle, Gaspé County, Que.

Woodworth, Ernest Rector, Q. N. S. F25342, Mrs. Rose Margaret Woodworth (wife) 36 Merkle St., Halifax.

Royal Canadian Corps of Signals—Payette, Ernest John, L. Cpl., D71741, Mrs. W. L. Riley (sister) 238 Second Ave., Noranda, Que.

Central Ontario Regiment—LaTour, Telesfore, Pte. B55253, John LaTour (father) Powasson, Ont.

Ostovich, Stephen, Pte., B55498, Steven Ostovitch (father) Kings St., Porcupine, Ont.

Prince, Maurice Charles, Pte., B55570, Mrs. Janet P. Prince (wife)

Few remember explosion of 1942

Continued from page 1

Soldiers separated the dead from the injured as arrangements were made for hospitalization and burials. A sea plane with additional medical personnel brought help, and transported some of the wounded to St. John's and Gander.

The horror of the explosion never left Mr. Ginn. Although he said it helped him prepare for the carnage he faced serving overseas in Belgium, Holland and France, he said he thinks about the Lewisporte explosion continually.

"It was terrible," he remembers. "Just terrible."

HARD TO FORGET

At the time of the explosion, Newfoundland was considered by Canadians as 'overseas.' And, since the Canadians were viewed by many Newfoundlanders as aliens, the deaths of five soldiers were not marked by much ceremony in Lewisporte. The Women's Patriotic Association wrote the families of the dead men and described the burial, but no recognition of the event has been held since.

Isabel Woolfrey was secretary of the WPA at the time, and corresponded with several of the families over the years. When her daughter graduated from Acadia University in 1976 the Woolfreys visited the Meisner family in Bridgewater.

"I hadn't known Bernard very well," said Mrs. Meisner. "But later in the war I met his brother Harry who served in Botwood."

Bernard's death shook his family, she said. Several years ago one of his sisters visited Lewisporte to see the grave.

NOT ALONE

Last summer, while university stu-

dent Paula Gale worked at a Lewisporte craft shop, a man and his wife struck up a conversation about the explosion.

The man said his name was Gauthreaux, (spelling not confirmed). He was from New Brunswick and was in town to revisit the site of the explosion at Hann's Point.

"I remember he was standing in a window overlooking the cemetery, describing the day it happened," said Ms. Gale. "It sent chills through me, and sort of surprised me because I lived here all my life and I knew nothing about it."

Mr. Gauthreaux described standing in the cemetery 50 years before, digging the graves and wondering what had caused the explosion that killed his friends.

"I was glad I was there to listen," said Ms. Gale. "It meant a lot to me."

She said she often wondered how many other families and friends have come to Lewisporte to find the site of the explosion.

"How would they feel if no one knew what they were talking about?" she said.

The time has come to give the explosion the recognition it deserves, she said.

"Everywhere the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Royal Canadian Legion are erecting little plaques to commemorate a battle or death, but there is nothing for the young soldiers who died in Lewisporte."

Following the Nov. 11 Memorial Day ceremonies at the Lewisporte War Memorial, Ms. Gale placed three poppies on the headstones of soldiers Meisner, Bennett and Walker.