

Fathers and sons who served together in the 60th battalion

St. Amour

Frank Sr (458331) – Frank Jr (AKA Gaudias) (458332) Thomas (458333)

The Frank St Amour was a widower raising four sons; Frank Jr (whose real name was Gaudius), twenty one years old, Thomas (whose real name was Damase Frederick) nineteen years, William eighteen and John who was sixteen years old. He and his two oldest sons Frank Jr and Thomas attested to the 60th Battalion on July 30, 1915. Frank Sr was not a rule follower and was constantly getting into trouble, mostly because of alcohol. He sailed with the battalion to England where he continued to run afoul of the rules. On December 24, 1915 he was charged with being drunk in Bramshott Camp and that was the last straw. He was transferred out of the 60th to the Canadian Army Service Corps on December 30th.

While this ended his service in the 60th Battalion it did not end his service and the change of units did not change his behaviour; he went absent without leave before he reported for duty and was fined two dollars and twenty cents, which equaled two days' pay for the two days he was absent and he was confined to barracks for ten days. When his sentence was over he went AWOL again. And again he was fined two days' pay and this time confined to base for fourteen days. The Canadian Army Service Corps had had enough and transferred him to the Canadian Casualty assemble Centre at Folkestone, attached to the Canadian Discharge depot at Bath for Discharge back to Canada. He was returned to Canada on the 15th of June, 1916.

Frank Sr wanted to serve and on January 8, 1917 he attested to the Forestry Corps as 2157303 Francois Rezlans St Amour. He arrived in England on June 9, 1917 and the next day was taken on strength of the Canadian Forestry Corps Base Depot. He was sent to No 55 Company of the Forestry Corps in France on July 21, 1917. He arrived in Le Havre the next day. It was only two weeks later that his troubles began and for the next year he was charged no less than nine times with a laundry list of offenses including drunkenness, absent from duty, resisting arrest and stealing. By September of 1918 the Forestry Corps had had their fill of Frank and transferred him back to England and on November 27, 1918 he was transferred to the Canadian Discharge Depot at Buxton for discharge back to Canada. On December 7, 1918 he was returned to Canada. He was demobilized on July 31, 1919.

Frank Jr and Thomas were very similar in appearance, five foot eight inches tall with dark hair. Frank had blue eyes and Thomas had hazel coloured eyes. Both men were struck off strength of the 60th Battalion on September 1, 1915 for desertion. Frank enlisted in the 207th Battalion on June 23, 1916. His new regimental number was 246536. On December 2nd he deserted. Thomas enlisted in the 139th Battalion on January 1, 1916 with the regimental number 814703 and was struck off strength on June 7th as a deserter. Frank enlisted in the 63rd Battery in Windsor, Ontario on April 17, 1917 under the name Frank Lacroix and new regimental number 334285. He assigned his pay to Gaudius St Amour; his real name. Frank Jr served overseas with the 63rd Battery until he was demobilized on May 9, 1919.

Thomas was arrested in Hull, Quebec in late November 1917. The authorities thought they had arrested Frank Jr. and Thomas did not tell them any different, he thought this would shield his brother. Thomas served with the 207th Battalion as Frank Jr from the 28th of November 1917 until he was demobilized on July 21, 1919. Their stories and service records are so intertwined that the records office amalgamated their records into one file and listed the alias's and service numbers for both men. Unfortunately the regimental number 458533 does not appear in any searches and is only found in the file with the other numbers for Frank Jr.