

Richard Lake

The following was provided by Richard's son Terry Lake Rutledge. Received 11 Sep 2020:

I was talking to my dad this morning and he thinks it's wonderful, what you guys are doing with this museum. He used to have an amazing memory and told us many stories of his years at A V Roe and Orenda (I seem to remember that he started at one and was moved to the other). This morning he told me he worked in the Tool Room on the engines as a Precision Grinder, doing tool and cutter grinding on the Cincinnati #2 machine and Tool Room precision grinding on the Brown & Sharpe 13 machine. He said he really enjoyed his years working there, it was a good job and good money. He said that when he left "he could see the writing on the wall" referring to the closure.



I remember him telling me stories of his time there. He said that at the time, many of the guys were building their own houses and at lunch they would all get together and talk about it, sharing information about how to do this or that. He remembers going into work on the day that Hurricane Hazel struck (I think it was the night shift as he said he had going into the bank that afternoon wearing his galoshes because the bank was flooding (this was in the Weston area). One of the guys decided not to take the shift and stay at home with his wife (who I think was pregnant, if I remember the story correctly). He lived on Raymore Drive in Etobicoke. His house was one of the ones that was washed away.

My Dad had a long working life, starting when he was a child, working as a delivery boy at Stokes Grocery at DuPont and Ossington and for the Butcher, Mr Travis, at College and Landsdowne. After Junior 3rd grade (grade 4) he went to school one day a week and worked the other six days to help support his family. Depression years. At 16 years old he was working at Dominion Bridge in Toronto in the Acid Room, cleaning the carbon off of shells (bombs). He was promoted to the Tool Room as an Apprentice. He stayed there until he went to join the R.C.A.F. Just ahead of his 19th birthday. He was a Diesel Electric Mechanic and Power Plant Operator for Western Air Command on Vancouver Island until the war ended. This led to his precision grinding at A V Roe.

I have a copy of his Separation of Employment which states that he left to take a position as a Salesman at London Life, wanted to "give it a try, for his own piece of mind." He said that Orenda Engines was an excellent place to work and liked his Supervisor. The Exit Interviewer stated "Excellent man—when should he re-apply for employment."

He also worked at Thor Industries from around 1946 to 1950 in the Tool Room doing Precision grinding, reconditioning milling cutters, tool design, etc.

He stayed at London Life about 2 years but left to work at several truck transportation companies as a Salesman, and different Sales Management positions.

He went back to his tool and die roots working at Canadian Koebel Diamond Tools from 1966 to 1970, as a Sales Engineer and then promoted to General Manager and left the company in very good standing to go back to truck transportation sales, where he stayed until retirement. During that time he also operated his own business, called Lake Diamond Tools, from his basement, using his Atlas lathe from the 1930's. Also after retirement he did a couple of stints at Thermag (a Magna company) which rounded out his career, bringing him back to his tool and die days.



A bit about his family: he was married to his wife Audrey, of 60 years until her death and has 3 daughters, Susan, Donna and myself Terry, the youngest.

Richard while at London Life

My Father now lives at the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre in Toronto.



ORENDA DIVISION, BOX 6001, TORONTO A.M.F., ONTARIO. L5P 1B3.

June 20, 1985.

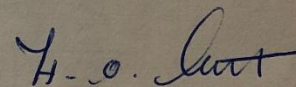
Re: LAKE, Richard David

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to confirm that Richard D. Lake was employed by Hawker Siddeley from January 29, 1951 to March 8, 1957. He worked during this period in the Tool Room as a Precision Grinder.

Please find enclosed a copy of his Separation of Employment.

Yours truly,



H.O. Artt
Personnel Officer

HA/km

cc. Docket 41823
Encl.

PLACEMENT SECTION

SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT

2366

ORENDA ENGINES LIMITED

MALTON ONTARIO

NAME LAKE, Richard David

EMPLOYEE NUMBER 41823

FORWARDING ADDRESS 494 MAPLE LEAF DRIVE

DEPT. NUMBER 5222

TORONTO 16 ONT.

PLANT ☒STAFF ☐

LEAVING DATE March 8, 1957

2:45 P.M.

HIRE DATE Jan. 29, 1951

MALE ☒FEMALE ☐☒ QUIT☐ LAID OFF☐ DISCHARGED

REASON FOR SEPARATION Own accord.

☒ T4 SLIP REQUIRED

PAY WILL BE PICKED UP 3:15 P.M. ON Mar. 8, 1957

MAIL OR PAY TO

CLASSIFICATION Precision Grinder

CODE 15-156B-09

Richard W Lake

John D. Sherratt

EMPLOYEE

for PERSONNEL MANAGER

EXIT INTERVIEWER'S REMARKS

MAR 7 1957

Excellent man - when asked to re-apply for employment.

Accepted Insurance Salesman position with London Life.

After completing tests given by London Life. feels this is the field he can progress in. Asked him to give it a try for his own piece of mind.

States Orenda Engines excellent place to work - likes his supervisor.

John D. Sherratt

John D. Sherratt

PLACEMENT OFFICER