



**Sapper Frederick Charles  
CHEVERIE  
10-D-09**

(story by Conal Slobodin, 17 years old on invitation of Veterans Affairs Canada on the occasion of the participation in the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pilgrimage to the Netherlands, May 2005)

Frederick Charles Cheverie was born on September 28, 1906 in Souris (Prince Edward Island), son of Charles and Katherine Cheverie. Frederick's life was not the life that many Canadians experienced before the Second World War. The third of five children, one having died at birth, Frederick lost his mother to tuberculosis when he was two years old. Shortly afterwards, his father placed him in St. Vincent's Orphanage, moving himself to New Brunswick and later to the USA after he remarried an American. Frederick was later adopted by a family and went to live on a fox and potato farm in Queen's County. Although he lived a better life than he would have had in an orphanage, he was still neglected and somewhat ignored, watching for years as his siblings George, Victor and Hilda led more fortunate lives. On August 1930, at the age of

24, he married his wife Mary-Louise in Abrahms Village, leaving Queen's County for Saint John, New Brunswick, after two years of militia service. During the Great Depression, newly-wed Frederick and his wife struggled like many to get along. Working since age twelve, and having received no formal schooling, he was unable to read and write even until his dying day. Frederick bounced around as fisherman, a job he had in his late teens in Souris, as foundry worker, carpenter and a steel and bridge builder, skills that would soon prove beneficial. Inspired by a patriotic duty to serve his country, Frederick Cheverie enlisted in September 1939 to serve in the war. Standing at 5'7, 150 lbs with hazel/green eyes, light brown hair and a fair complexion. Frederick joined the No. 14 Field Ambulance in Saint John. He eventually applied for a transfer to the Royal Canadian Engineers. Although having lost two fingers in an accident with an axe years earlier, he was determined not to let that prevent him from becoming a sapper and eventually joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron after being described as a keen, quick learner by his superiors. As the war waged on in Europe, Frederick Cheverie was in his late-thirties working first in posting the 9<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron, attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Armoured in England after training in New Brunswick and

Quebec. His wife, Mary-Louise had moved to Egmont Bay, shortly after he went overseas. Records show that his unit entered the war near the Falaise Gap in France in August 1944 at the battle of Quasney Wood and fought his way to the Leopold Canal and Scheldt to liberate Belgium. Slightly wounded on April 6, 1945, and transferred to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Field Company on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April after hospitalization, Frederick Cheverie lived to see the end of the war in Europe in good health. Sadly however, he was killed eleven days after the war in Europe was ended on May 19<sup>th</sup> 1945. First buried in Meppen, Germany on May 20<sup>th</sup> he was reburied on the Canadian War Cemetery Holten. Frederick Charles Cheverie was 40 years old.

